

# Eliza's Crixell Boys In Brownsville

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PREFACE, ADDENDUM, POEM, AND  
EDITED BY

*John A. Garza*

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Editor's Preface, Addendum, and poem "Grandmother"  
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To Mami

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## Editor's Preface

This is a collection of articles from The Brownsville Herald (BH) and a few other newspapers about three of the Crixell brothers in Brownsville, Texas, during the early 1900s. There were 1888 Search results for Teofilo, 1134 for Vicente L., and 271 for Joseph, which raises a question, is this just a matter of big fish in a small pond? Even discounting the large number of these items that were advertisements for their businesses, they were civic leaders who were involved in everything from commerce to politics to infrastructure to diplomacy to cultural events, and their comings and goings were given press like the celebrities of today.

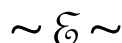
This seemingly insignificant pioneer border town and these fellows, about 1,500 miles from Washington, D. C., and 500 miles from Mexico City as the crow flies, played a role in an event with ramifications of national importance, the purported riot of Black soldiers at Fort Brown in 1906 that crystallized how racial conflicts would manifest in the new century and how the political parties realigned in the post-Civil War and Reconstruction era. Two of the Crixells testified at the U. S. Senate hearings, titled "The Brownsville Affray," which led to President Theodore Roosevelt's dispatching all of the Black soldiers with administrative discharges, until the Defense Department reviewed the investigation in 1970, ending with Presidential Pardons in 1972.

The freshness in the newspaper style of writing makes personalities jump off the page, and these particular fellows bounce out across a century in their various enterprises of running their businesses, traveling around anywhere from Houston to Mexico City, building things and diversifying, politicking, surviving house fires here and assassination attempts there, facilitating an opera performance, family weekendening at the beach, playing a prank on an out-of-towner, having their horses stolen, arresting and being arrested, rescuing hostages in Mexico, and ultimately incurring the deep personal pathos in the killing of City Marshal Joseph in a fusillade from another law enforcement officer.

Yes, five years after he had testified to the Senate committee, so alive in the transcript of The Congressional Record, with his boyish joking and gushing of details of daily life in a frontier town, the news accounts that he was shot dead on the street shocked across the state then and make the wounds raw all over again today. Then came the sensational trial freeing the defendant, on grounds of self defense although the dead man never drew his gun, who went on to a couple of other killings until thirteen years later when he himself was shot dead in Corpus Christi, not in Brownsville, by his own political enemies because of "personal difficulty" among them over there, who had been elected "with support of the klan element."

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And the vivid reporting covers all, often unemotionally and without explanation, persons and activities alike, appearing and disappearing, whether visitors and passersby, a salesman from New York here, a con man from California there, or, little social notes, like the arrivals and departures of Mrs. Eliza Crixell, dubbed “mother of the Crixell boys here,” between her home in Corpus Christi and her boys’ homes in Brownsville for short visits, no details deemed necessary. But in one instance, seemingly like any of the previous visits, she is said to have departed after visiting with family in Brownville for six weeks. Hmm, an unusual length after the pattern of short visits, the reader puzzles briefly, before coming to a full stop with the realization that the difference coincides with the news of six weeks before that one of her sons was slaughtered in the street. Oh. One week per bullet. Then fifteen months later at the trial of the killer she, tagged as “the sweet old mother,” was put on the stand as the last witness, likely in a prosecutor’s ploy for sympathy in the court room overflowing with the defendant’s supporters, all bristlingly armed, all Rangers and other law enforcement officers, the coercive intimidation of their presence communicated without being described. Her testimony was disallowed as irrelevant, but she bore witness.

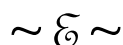


The searching for these articles was done by internet, not by archival page by page review, such that the results were not in any chronological or other logical order, and there are gaps everywhere between whatever events happen to result in the search that mention future activities said to be scheduled but which don’t turn up. This randomness was a basic filter of the totality of the archives that are actually out there and affected which articles are included here, yet almost all of the viewed articles are here, the few omitted being according to pertinence of the events and persons, not by bias of favorable or unfavorable portrayals of persons and deeds. Simple copying and printing were not feasible because the items were pictures on the screen of the hard copy newspaper pages, such that I transcribed it all by typing, which added opportunities for errors, mine through typos and illegible spots, besides those of the original writers and typesetters, which I transcribed without change or correction. As for citations, the source newspapers are noted immediately following the date of each entry, mainly “BH” for The Brownsville Herald (or previously, The Brownsville Daily Herald). And where there were errors of fact and interpretations by the original authors, I inserted correction messages like this: [Ed., error of fact: cf., date/article].

Another potential for confusion is the number of different Crixells with the same given names, obviously a tradition to honor forebears, particularly the patriarch, who is Vicente Crixell without any middle initial, whose only appearance here is from his

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monument at the Corpus Christi cemetery, as "Native of Catalonia" (no dates). His son, cited throughout these newspaper articles, is Vicente L. (for Laulom, his mother's maiden name) Crixell, V. Crixell, or V. L. Crixell. Also, all of the names of Crixells and spouses were always cited, by them from the beginning, according to the English style with the paternal surname last and maiden or other names in the middle, not by the Spanish system of first surname being paternal and second maternal. So "V. L. Crixell," the son of Vicente Crixell and Eliza Laulom, is never "Vicente Crixell Laulom."



Whether from error or confusion, much more disturbing is a particular item, which is a personal column, not news reporting, that contains errors of fact and that further misleads with its many opinions, interpretations, speculations, projections of motives, and nebulous figurative language, all of which together betray a bias in its retelling the killing of City Marshal Joseph and his killer's trial and eventual own shooting death.

This column is: "1959 Sun Apr 12. The Victoria Advocate (Victoria, Texas)  
LONGHORNS SHORT TAILS. By Sid Feder. Why Mr. Houchins Has Special  
Interest in Confederate Money."

This is a book review of Mr. Feder's of the book, Sand In Your Craw, by Paul C. Boethel, with summary statements blurring together opinions and significant errors of fact, presumably shared by the reviewer and the author. I inserted this blanket correction at the beginning of the column:

[Ed., several major errors of fact, above all, and Mr Feder's personal opinions, interpretations, speculations throughout. Cf., for correct information: 1912 Sat Aug 10 account; 1925 Mon Jul 6; 1925 Tue Jul 7; 1925 Wed Jul 8.]

Additionally, at the points of occurrence in the body I inserted bracketed Editor's flaggings of the wrong information and interpretations and where to find the correct information, totaling about a dozen. Why not just exclude the column? Because it is an artifact of its 1959 times and of the 1912 times it characterizes similarly, and letting it stand without correction, even if it is forgotten while still extant, bolsters the wrongs done, believed, and propagandized.

Part of the problem in the column is its style of folksy language, something that should not be attempted by persons who are not Mark Twain. Thus, Mr. Feder describes the trial of the City Marshal's killer as being like "the Battle of the Marne," although his

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focus is not on the battle of the two sides of the legal proceedings but rather on his own exuberant approval of the one side without a “battle” of the court room packed to bursting by armed, aggressive, intimidating men supporting the defendant. He calls armed men “torpedoes,” personal conflict “the balloon went up,” weapons “the old equalizers,” and on and on.

As for opinions, he is complaisant that he, his readers, and the community where the trial was held all share complete approval for the defendant in everything from his deed to his physical appearance to his entitled acquittal. He repeatedly asserts that the armed men, all being state Rangers and other law enforcement “buddies,” were there to ensure the defendant got a fair trial, “got everything he had coming to him,” by which he means unquestionably deserving acquittal. He leaves no room for the possibility that a full complement of armed men in a court room just might sway a jury, quite the opposite, giving it to be understood, wink wink, that the swaying was the whole point, if this had even been needed, which it wasn’t anyway, wink wink.

But after the language and the opinions, the misrepresentations move on into the egregious stage. When he takes up the 1925 death of the acquitted defendant in a shootout in Corpus Christi, Mr. Feder alleges (or relays with approval Mr. Boethel’s version?) that the shooters were agents of the murdered Marshal’s Brownsville partisans and that there was an assignation to meet that was an ambush. This is why it is important to set this fanciful column in the context of this collection of actual news reports, for the context in stark contrast. The 1925 news articles say that the participants “met ... by accident,” that the fracas was the result of “a personal difficulty” among them, who were all Corpus Christi area residents, and that it resulted from Corpus Christi political conflict, in which the shooters had won the recent election “with the support of the klan element.” No contemporary fact based accounts found for this collection support the Feder/Boethel version. Worst of all, going back to Mr Feder’s retelling of the 1912 shooting of the City Marshal, he says it was a mutual shootout, while the newspapers and witnesses all said that only the killer drew a gun, and a witness at the 1913 trial testified he called out, “Come here, Joe.”



Clearly, this is not a scholarly enterprise, being nothing if not slapdash in every way. Now might occur the question with the power to destroy any project or endeavor: Why? That is to say, why this subject, why me, why whatever. To begin an answer, I am a grandson of Vicente Laulom Crixell via my mother Elisa Crixell Garza. As one of my elder female relatives said to me, with her streak of repressed and suppressed proto-feminism and incensed by the patriarchal naming system, “We (from the daughter Crixells) are just like them (from the son Crixells), but they have the [sur-] name!”

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Despite that I have believed my entire life to have been a pursuit of introspected Knowing Myself and that my family is full of stars at story telling who might have given me more clues from the beginning, I was not catechized on the family history, which was only presented as an agglomeration of vague references, something about some French and Spanish descent, something about New Orleans. There are a couple of pages of family tree in my "baby book" handwritten by my mother, with the French surnames "Laulom" and "Patereau" and the Catalan "Crixell," but no accompanying fleshing out of the names, such that it even escaped me that my mother Elisa was named for my great-grandmother Eliza Laulom Crixell.

My own direct family experiences, now memories, were stronger than what scant family stories I heard. Scant, because the youngest never really overcomes the pecking order, in my case particularly because I came along when my parents were forty and there was a gap of ten years between my two sisters and me, more like I was an only child growing up among all older people around me. My parents were always working and my sisters in school, everybody busy with their own lives. Being the youngest meant that all the family's big decisions, big events, big discoveries, big power struggles, and precedents had already been taken by the time I came along, and this extended to the telling of the family stories, which had already been told in the older circles, with little interest left for rehashing to a latter day audience of one.

My focus was less on the family history than on the close and few family with whom I had direct, personal contact, knowing the personality and character of the persons in front of me — my parents, two sisters, and grandmother Isabel Zamudio Crixell, whom we called "Mami." We lived in the family seat of Brownsville for a couple of my first years, probably between ages two to five, a block away from my grandparents' home, then moved to San Benito, after which we traveled the ten miles to our grandparents' home every Sunday, and they frequently came to stay with us for a few days, my own contacts with Mami becoming more extensive after she was widowed. My impressions were her calmness and quietness, her listening more than talking, her ever present crocheting. Later I noticed her adaptability and openness to keeping up with changing times, such as updating the upholstery on her furniture every couple or few years, and making every minute count even between larger tasks with her ever present crocheting, always with a current project in hand. The closest she came to a harsh word was after I had gorged myself on Thanksgiving pork dressing, and she said evenly, "I saw how much you ate." Hashing over the past was not her thing. I adored her, to the point of causing jealousy in my mother.

She wore her hair in a bun at the nape, but one time I saw her brushing her long, damp hair after a bath and she annointed it with brilliantine. In a high school Spanish class, the reading assignment was Cervantes' *La Gitanita* (The Little Gypsy), and I was

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reading it aloud to her while she did her forever crocheting. My stumblebum reading was more for my entertainment and ultimately exhausting, and eventually I stopped to take a nap. When I returned, I found her engrossed in reading it, having put aside the crocheting in favor of finding out the surprise identity ending, and she said excitedly, "You'll never guess who La Gitanita is!" A few years later I, always the dilettante, was fiddling with a camera and posed her interminably. She put up with it patiently while I stood on the bed for the angle and kept raising the window blinds more and more for the light, finally ending with blistering light and heat fully on her. Later upon hearing that suffering is involved in producing great art, I blushed to realize it is usually the artist, not the subject, who is supposed to do the suffering. I consider the picture every bit a masterpiece as Whistler's Mother, by the way.

My dim image of my grandfather "Papi" from when I was about three or four years old, is of a very large, very old man in a chair with armrests, which I now relate to the statue in the Lincoln Memorial. My parents operated a neighborhood tiny store, probably through the beneficence of my grandparents, a half block from their house, and for a period I was assigned to take a six ounces bottle of Coca Cola to him at 3 o'clock for his "medicine." Mami would receive it, take it to the kitchen and come back with a glass for him, and he would give me a sip, which I apparently savored. Years later it was understood that it was a mixed drink and that he had told Mother he was going to discontinue my sip because it was bad for me. But I think it is my own memory that one day Mami accepted the Coke and informed me with a smile that Papi wouldn't be needing his medicine anymore because he was all well, to which I retorted, "Well, then he doesn't need the Coca Cola either!" And after that Mami trekked the half block every afternoon to fetch the Coke. I didn't have my first liquor on my own or anything else until I was twenty and in the Navy in Saigon, and I ordered whatever I had heard of, bourbon and Coke, and the first taste of it was exactly the experience described by Proust of a memory triggered by taste, and I yelped to nobody in the crowd, "This is Papi's medicine!" The Navy, with its sense of humor about where it grants Liberty (choice vacations spots) to us sailors, also set the scene for me of another personal recognition: After six weeks of sea trials off Guantanamo Bay and formaldehyde as a preservative in the beer, we were treated to fun in Haiti. But then we went to New Orleans, my first time there, and when I saw the two story porches and wrought iron work, floor to ceiling narrow windows, elephant ears, asparagus ferns and other ferns, I said aloud to myself excitedly (I seemed to talk excitedly a lot to myself in crowds), "This is just like Brownsville, Papi and Mami's house!" More correctly, Old Brownsville was a smaller version of New Orleans.

My only other memory of Papi was after his death in that house with the porch and plain but stately columns, the floor to ceiling old windows, the center little entrance hall dividing the front part of the house in two, the single outside step up with the mat sized

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cement rectangle saying "CRIXELL" in block letters. I remember being in the little hall with my other child cousins and hearing Mother's hysteria of mad laughter of grief from somewhere in the inside rooms, and that after the funeral the whole family gathered for what one of the men chuckled to say was "an Irish wake."



By the time I was a university student the one concrete fact I knew from a source outside the family was that Joseph had testified at a U. S. Senate hearing, called "The Brownsville Affray," in the matter of the 1906 purported riot of the Black soldiers stationed at Fort Brown. I made a copy of his testimony from the Congressional Record, only reading it a few times over the next forty years, not exactly grasping from the bare bones of the question and answer format what his relationship to us was. The senator's first questions to him were: "Q. You are of French descent? — A. Yes, sir. Q. Your name is French, is it not? — A. Yes, sir." And his rollicking testimony was off! He was certainly half French from his mother Eliza, yet half Spanish and therefore of a Spanish surname from his father Vicente. The verbatim transcript shows him to be funny, aweless in addressing the Senators, and, quite apart from the subject of the hearings, enlightening about the daily life of early Brownsville, the details of operating the family businesses of liquor distributorships and saloon keeping, the habits and preferences of customers, and family interactions or lack thereof — for example informing the Senators that his brother didn't talk more than the minimum it took to deliver instructions for running the business. And all of this was delivered in earthy language including the N-word describing the the community's stratification of ethnic groups among "the Mexicans," "the White soldiers," and the the Black soldiers, not to mention others like him who were neither Mexicans nor soldiers. A detail from a family source was that after the common occurrence of marriages between the soldiers and local girls, their offspring were said to be "half Mexican and half soldier." There could be no inkling in his self-revealing testimony, where he stands alive in front of us or perhaps more realistically imagined as slouched in the witness chair with his feet on the table, that five years later when he was City Marshal (Chief of Police) he would be shot dead by another law enforcement officer, his bullet ridden body being just as visible and touchable in the newspaper accounts,

Of the Crixell women, who appear in later years in social notes, only the matriarch Eliza takes on a personality in full, at first only weaving in and out over the years on short visits to her Brownsville boys and departures to her home in Corpus Christi. Her comings and goings are noted without explanation, almost the way Cervantes strategically pops in an officer of the Holy Brotherhood to watch over — or rein in — Don Quixote. Short visits and departures after short visits, but then one of six weeks

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gives the reader mild pause to wonder, hmm, well six weeks is different... Until the pathetic realization rises to the surface that this six weeks is six weeks after one of her sons had been slaughtered on the street. Then fifteen months later she is reported to have testified at the trial of the killer, in a court room overflowing with his armed, aggressive, intimidating supporters. In two other glimpses, in my grandparents' 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary interview, Mami relates her own arrival in Brownsville as a new bride, she and Papi riding in a horse drawn buggy in front, with Eliza forming a procession in the second buggy with the three children from the first marriage. And then she is quoted in a family story, when one of Papi's eldest as an adult asked her where the supposed family trait of "dumbness" came from, from her or from patriarch Vicente? She replied, "I spoke only French. When I married your grandfather I had to learn Spanish to be able to talk to him. Then when we moved here I had to learn English to talk to others. He never spoke anything but Spanish..." (so you do the math).



Wherever there is a river or some other barrier straddled by populated areas, more often than not both sides see themselves as more together than apart, in Lennon's words, "Imagine there's no countries..." One hundred and twenty year ago, near the mouth of the river between Brownsville and Matamoros, the separation of two countries was certainly official, but there was a vibrant energy rising from the river banks in one invisible but palpable mass over all. In the recent years of talk far from here in the rest of the United States of ever sharper demarcation of this border, these newspaper accounts depict an opposite contrast: The interdependence, intimate interaction, fellowship, and confluence of this area. Commerce is one thing, but in the sweep of this newspaper narrative, the interplay of Brownsville and Matamoros in all facets of personal relationships, politics, daily activities, cultural events, and everything else becomes a character and personality in itself. There were smuggling and violent revolutions then, and smuggling and violent cartels now, affecting both sides of the river, but without the power to disconnect the native residents of both sides.

As for the politics, the two parties of the post Civil War era were about reversed from what they are today, the Democratic Party being the party of the South and the Republicans of the North, with the corresponding postures towards Blacks. But the Brownsville Crixells were active in the Independent Party, called the Red party, the leader being the federal Customs boss R. B. Crea-ger, and their speeches were reported in the newspaper as opposing both parties for being anti-Progress and asking for voters from both. After the so-called Brownsville Affray of 1906, when the Black soldiers at Fort Brown were accused of shooting up the town, Republican Theodore Roosevelt, who had just benefited from Black votes in the election of 1904, took the decision to

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discharge all the Blacks administratively, which contributed to the realignment of Black alienation away from the post-Civil War Republican party in favor of the Democratic party. And by the time Progressive Roosevelt was gone and Woodrow Wilson was President, at least one former Independent Crixell was reported to say he had always voted for the Democratic party.



This has been a project of personal discovery and high emotion for me. Do I dare to presume that I see some character and personality traits in me and the kinfolk I have known that we received from these few antecedents we have gotten to know a little here? Vigor, intelligence, perseverance, loving fun, repartee, generosity with an open hand, music, risk taking, industry, humaneness. I am reminded of a movie, *Fanny* (1961), adapted from Marcel Pagnol's novels, in which the characters reveal this same largesse of spirit in the same cultural incubator.

From their (second?) arrival in Brownsville in 1902 (Joseph's date in his statement to the Senate committee) they exploded exuberantly on the scene to the point of being referred to by *The Daily Herald* as "the Crixell boys." They were the local versions of Teddy Roosevelt. Teofilo's obituary is an impressive summary of their accomplishments, while the newspaper's articles are a spectrum of everything from comedic pranks to business deals, building infrastructure, political drudgery and victories, bricks thrown, bullets shot, assassination attempts on them, and ultimately City Marshal Joseph shot dead without his gun being drawn, attributed to a feud among law enforcement entities in power struggles and turf wars — the Rangers and the county sheriff's department in service to a political boss vs the City Police.

The images that have reached us are cinematic and intense: The original arrival from New Orleans to Bagdad and the destruction by a terrific storm. The relocation by sail boat to Corpus Christi. The procession of two buggies back to Brownsville with the newlyweds in front and the matriarch with three children behind. The rambunctious business affairs. Bringing an opera for both sides of the river. The riot by who-knows-who shooting up the town. The U.S. Senate hearings. The political machinations complete with feuds among law enforcement. The election victory when Papi on a horse leads a torch lit parade. The shooting of the City Marshall. The funeral with a thousand mourners. The trial in a courtroom packed with armed men. The testimony of "the sweet old mother." The Not Guilty defendant's own further armed fracas and violent death. The next generation creating a dance company.

J. A. G.

McAllen, Texas

Vicente Crixell and Eliza Laulom Crixell were the parents of “the Crixell boys” (Teofilo, Vicente L. (for Laulom), Joseph L., et al.). The BH of Dec. 28, 1904, referred to her as, “the mother of the Crixell boys here.” From son/Teofilo’s Death Certificate, father/Vicente was born in Lloret de Mar, Catalonia, Spain. There are two towns named “Creixell”, one near Lloret de Mar, north of Barcelona, the other south. Vicente’s father: Jose Crixell. Vicente Crixell (from son/Teofilo’s U.S. Passport Application, 1917: ) emigrated to the U.S. on or about September 1849, residing uninterruptedly in the U.S. 30 years. Vicente’s monument at Holy Cross Cemetery, Corpus Christi, Texas, says: [No year of death] native of Catalonia, Spain, died at the age of 46 years. Since his youngest daughter was one year old in the 1880 census, his year of death might be 1879 or 1880. Subtracting 46, his birth year might be 1833 or 1834.

Eliza’s parents: Emil Laulom and Victorina Patereau Laulom, originally from Lyons, France (information from Elisa Crixell Garza, daughter of Vicente Laulom Crixell and Isabel Zamudio Crixell). 1850 Eliza Laulom born/New Orleans, according to her headstone (Eliza L. Falcon) at Rose Hill Memorial Park, Corpus Christi. A family tree of Ernest Falcon, Sr., gives June as her birth month. She is buried in proximity to Alvaro G. Falcon (her second husband?), while all other records show him as Alvino or Albino. Eliza’s brother, Louis Laulom (06-20-1874, from the family tree of Maria Guadalupe Llanas). Eliza’s nephew, Alcide Patereau of Plaquemine, Iberville, Louisiana.

1869 Mon Feb 22. Vicente Laulom Crixell born, Clarksville, Texas, across the river from Bagdad/Matamoros, Mexico. Separate information: V. L. Crixell’s first wife was Irene Munoz (Yrene Munos in one document; Irene Villarreal in the 1900 census), their marriage (no documentation found) between the birth years of their eldest and youngest children: Louis and Luciano, twins, July 1896; Irene, Dec 1898. By the 1900 census he was listed as divorced, while the “Cook” in the household, Irene Villarreal, was listed as married.

Isabel Zamudio Crixell’s parents, Benigno Zamudio, originally from Salvatierra, Guanajuato, Mexico, and Patricia Martinez Zamudio, from Atotonilco, Guanajuato, Mexico, emigrated to Corpus Christi, Texas. Benigno’s parents: Benigno Zamudio from Spain and Isabel de la Vega Zamudio. Patricia’s parents: Ramon Martinez and Maria Ventura Guzman Martinez.

V. L. and Isabel’s children: Vincent Jr., Arturo, Elisa, Adolfo, Frank, Maria Isabel, Alfonso, Lydia, and Emilio, besides that Isabel raised the three from the first marriage as her own, “no difference,” as she was quoted in the 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary newspaper article.

1867 Thu Mar 7. Teofilo was born in New Orleans. (From his obituary) Vicente and Eliza Crixell, she/“native of Lyons, France” [sic], sailed to Bagdad, Mexico, at the mouth of the Rio Grande River, which was wiped out by a terrific storm later that year. They

moved to Matamoros, Mexico, where they resided until 1873, when they relocated to Corpus Christi, Texas, traveling by sail boat. Eliza's headstone in Rose Hill Memorial Park, Corpus Christi, says she was born in New Orleans (not Lyons, France) in 1850 (not 1845 as is said in the Maria Guadalupe Llanas family tree, which also lists Vicente Crixell's dates as 1849-1880, 31 years old, conflicting with his monument).

1867 Wed Oct 2. From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

1867 Atlantic hurricane season. Hurricane Seven.

Late on October 2, a hurricane formed in the Gulf of Mexico, off the coast of northeastern Mexico. Holding its intensity, the storm system paralleled the Texas coastline, causing "many" deaths. .... Turning towards Louisiana, the storm made landfall on the state with winds of 100 mph (160 km/h), a Category 2 .... Moving to the east and weakening, the storm made landfall on the state of Florida during the day on October 6. .... re-emerged into Atlantic waters. .... dissipated off the coast of North Carolina on October 9.

The hurricane struck Texas near the mouth of the Rio Grande, and devastated Brownsville, Matamoros, and Bagdad .... The entire population of Bagdad fled, while Matamoros was left nearly in ruins. The official death toll in the area was unknown, but local accounts stated there were at least 26 dead. .... Clarksville, two miles inland, was also devastated and shortly later abandoned. Galveston, already in the midst of a yellow fever epidemic, was flooded by a storm surge. .... Bagdad, Tamaulipas, Mexico, was a town established in 1848 on the south bank of the mouth of the Rio Grande. .... also known as the Port of Bagdad or the Port of Matamoros, .... A major player in the American Civil War .... So great was the trade that Bagdad's population soon reached 15,000 inhabitants. From a miserable shanty town, Bagdad exploded into a frontier boom town, complete with saloons, gambling houses, and brothels. The Brownsville Ranchero [Ed., a pro-Confederate weekly] described Bagdad as a town in which "...fandangos were held every night and women as beautiful as houris exhibit their charms, without the least reserve." The New York Herald described Bagdad as "an excrescence of the war. Here congregated ... blockade runners, desperadoes, the vile of both sexes; adventurers ... numberless grogeries and houses of worse fame. [Where the] decencies of civilized life were forgotten, and vice in its worst form held high carnival ... while in the low, dirty looking buildings ... were amassed millions [in] gold and silver." A blockade runner once described Bagdad as a place where everyone was trying to grab what he could by using whatever scheme possible to make money out of crisis. .... As the Confederacy cause died, so died Bagdad. The town itself was officially declared non-existent in 1880. The surrounding area sustained several hurricanes during the late 1860s through the 1880s. The 1889 hurricane closed the port of Bagdad forever to merchant ships.

1871 Fri May 12. Joseph Laulom Crixell, born. In [Matamoros] Mexico, from his Death Certificate, informant Vicente L. Crixell.

1873. From Teofilo's obituary. Crixell family relocates to Corpus Christi, Texas.

1880. From Federal Census. Corpus Christi, Texas. Eliza Crixell, profession/occupation/trade: "Bakery," 35 years old, Carrizo Street. Sons Emil, trade: Baker, born Mexico, age 15; Teofilo, born Louisiana, age 13; Vicente, age 11; Joseph, age 9, Louis, age 6; daughters Rosa, age 3; Mary, age 1; brother Louis Laulom, trade: Baker, born Louisiana, age 21.

1880. From Federal Census. Corpus Christi, Texas: Alvino Falcon, age 27, born about 1853/Texas, single, occupation: Saloon Keeper. ----- From Texas, Muster Roll Index Cards/1838-1900: Alvino G. Falcon. Birthplace Starr County. Enlistment Date 10-08-1870. Record Type: Ranger Rolls-Statehood. Rank: Corp.1. Com.Off. C. G. Falcon. Organ(ization) Co. G. Frontier Forces. Disch: 12-31-1870. Occupation: Absent with Capt. C. G. Falcon. Remarks: Ranger Muster Roll. ---- From U.S. Civil War Pension Index, General Index to Pension Files, 18621-2934: Albino De La Garga [sic: read "Garza"?] Falcon, spouse Eliza Laulom Falcon [widowed 1922], Comments: Indian Wars.

1881 Sun May 15. Isabel Zamudio born in Corpus Christi, Texas. Married Vicente L. Crixell in 1903.

1884. (From 1900 Federal Census) Eliza Falcon, married to Alvino/Albino G. Falcon.

1900. From Federal Census, Corpus Christi, Ward 5, Texas. Head of Household (Vicente L.) spelled "Finchett" Crixell. 31 years old, Divorced. Occupation: [Ed., "Defet"?] Sheriff. Born Mexico [sic: all other documents say Clarksville, Texas]. Year immigrated U.S. 1872, 28 years in U.S. Household: Irene Villarreal [Ed., same as Irene Munoz/Yrene Munos], age 35, Cook, married; sons/daughters of Cook, Antonio age 17, Josefa age 15, Jose age 13, Rosa age 9; sons/daughter of Vicente Crixell: [Ed., and Irene Villarreal/Munoz] Louis and Luciano, twins/Jul 1896/ages 3, Irene/Dec 1898/age 1.

1902. Brothers Teofilo, Joseph, [and Vicente L. and Louis?] arrived from Corpus Christi to take up residence in Brownsville, Texas. This, according to Teofilo's obituary and Joseph's testimony in 1907 to the U. S. Senate Committee, 60<sup>th</sup> Congress, holding hearings regarding The Brownsville Affray of 1906.

[Ed., From this point on, all posts are either mostly newspaper articles or some research notes by Javier R. Garcia, all sources being cited immediately following the dates: The Brownsville Daily Herald/The Brownsville Herald being abbreviated as "BH"; other newspapers and sources being named in full; and Mr. Garcia cited as: "\*\*\*\*JRG\*\*\*\*".]

1903 Thu Apr 9. BH.

To Open May 1st.

Teofilo Crixell has received the fixtures and furnishings for the saloon which he will

open in the Barreda building, on Elizabeth street, and expects to be ready for business by May 1. Mr. Crixell will have his place handsomely and attractively fixed up, and will do everything possible for the pleasure of his patrons. Don't forget the opening day.

1903 Wed April 15. Vicente L. Crixell marries Isabel Zamudio. Date from BH article regarding their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in 1953, said article also quoting her as their having taken up residence in Brownsville "a year later," 1904.

1903 Tue Jun 9. BH.

PERSONALS.

Joe Crixell, manager of the Crixell saloon, has consented to join the Brownsville band on Corpus Christi Day and play the cornet. This kind of Mr. Crixell and his offer will be fully appreciated we assure him.

1903 Tue Nov 24. [...1943. BH.

Peeping Into Valley's Past. Forty Years Ago.]

Mr Joe Crixell has consented to aid the band in furnishing music for the Thanksgiving ball. Mr. Crixell is an accomplished musician. [Also 1903:] John B. Viano [Ed., he figures as witness years later] has permanently located in Brownsville, and is prepared to make yearly contracts to keep your pianos in tune. In this way you can keep your piano in tune cheaper than in the usual way. All work guaranteed. Leave all orders at Putegnat's drugstore.

1904 Tue Aug 30. BH.

T. Crixell-4th Warrior. Chas. Albee- 1st Brave. V.L. Crixell-2nd Brave. J.B. Viano- 3rd Brave. Arthur Blind- 4th Brave. Geo. V. Bothwell- G. of W. Eulogio Gara- G. of F. After conclusion of the meeting last night the members repaired in a body to the Brownsville Restaurant, where ham sandwiches, chicken salad, liquid refreshments had been prepared, and all enjoyed the informal feast very much. Several vocal selections by M. D. Fernandez, and instrumental music by L. R. Cowen and others, made the evening pass very pleasantly.

1904 Tue Oct 18. [...1944. BH.

Peeping Into Valley's Past. FROM THE FILES OF THE BROWNSVILLE HERALD. FORTY YEARS AGO].

... Vicente Crixell has opened the White Elephant saloon on the south side of Market Square and has it fitted up nicely for the entertainment of customers.

1904 Tue Oct 18. BH.

Vicente Crixell has opened the White Elephant saloon on the south side of Market and has it fixed up nicely. Joe Crixell has completed his neat cottage near Washington square and moved into it last Saturday. Teofilo Crixell's two story residence in the same locality is being pushed to completion, and will be ready for occupancy in the near future. These

two new residences add much to the appearance of that section of the city.

1904 Sat Dec 24. BH.

Jose Crixell returned from Corpus yesterday afternoon. Mr. Crixell tells a Herald reporter of an incident on the way to Brownsville which is worthy of note. When about two or three miles this side of Raymondville, Engineer Kendall saw three wild turkeys on the road side. Taking his winchester, and without slackening the speed he killed one of the turkeys, and stopped the train to get it. This was not an accidental shot, as the engineer has done the same thing several times before, and proved himself an expert shot with the winchester while the train is in motion.

1904 Wed Dec 28. BH.

**Mrs. E. Falcon**, mother of **the Crixell boys** here, left for home at Corpus this morning, accompanied by her little grandchild, Mary Crixell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. Crixell and Cruz Gutierrez' children, who are also grandchildren of Mrs. Falcon.

1905 Mon Apr 3. BH.

Dissolution Notice.

The partnership heretofore existing between V. L. Crixell and Louis Crixell, under the firm name of V.L. Crixell & Bro., conducting the White Elephant Saloon, is this day dissolved by mutual consent, Louis Crixell retiring from the firm. V. L. Crixell will continue the business, collect all bills due the firm, and assumes all indebtedness. V. L. CRIXELL, LOUIS CRIXELL. 3-29-4-8

1905 Fri Apr 7. BH.

About two o'clock this morning Mr. and Mrs. V. Crixell were awakened by a policeman and notified their kitchen was on fire. On investigation it was found the roof was burning, a good sized hole having burned, and other hole burned in the floor. The family ate supper about 6 o'clock yesterday evening and went over to Mr. Crixell's brother's returning about ten o'clock. Mrs. Crixell had occasion to visit the kitchen after returning, and is very positive the stove was cold at that time, and the mystery is how the house caught fire, when no fire had been in the stove since six o'clock.

1905 Mon Jun 5. BH.

Agreeably Surprised.

Yesterday the Catholic congregation was agreeably surprised at the sight of a beautiful and artistic stained glass window. The subject so splendidly treated represents the Blessed Virgin Mary. It has been placed above the main altar and occupies the place of honor, as the church has been dedicated under the patronage of the Immaculate Concepcion. This beautiful piece of art was made in New York and generously donated by Mr. John G. Kenedy, whose family since the foundation of the church at Brownsville has been a noble benefactor of the Oblate Fathers. The Catholic congregation and the

community of the fathers extend to him and his family their most sincere and heartfelt thanks. L. Pitoye, Rector.

ACADEMY OF THE INCARNATE WORD ENDS 63RD YEAR. MANY STUDENTS OF ACADEMY ARE GIVEN PRIZES FOR EXCELLENCE IN VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS. ... The graduates are ... [Ed., six others] and Miss Irene Crixell. ... The program was unusually good ... Gold medal for mathematics in highest grade, (donated by Mr. A. Anderson) awarded to Miss Irene Crixell. Gold medal for mathematics in Seventh and Eighth grades, (donated by First National Bank) awarded to Miss Elvira Crixell.

1905 Wed Nov 8. BH.

A Practical Joke.

During his recent trip to Rio Grande City, Louis Sinsheimer, a drummer for a New York liquor house, was the victim of a practical joke, which almost caused his hair to turn grey in one night. He was accompanied by Teofilo Crixell, from Brownsville, and on their arrival at the hotel, it was decided to go downtown after supper. When they were ready to return to the hotel, Mr. Crixell suggested that as it was quite a distance and Mr. Sinsheimer having a considerable sum of money on his person, it would be advisable to arm themselves. Accordingly pistols were secured, and carried in the usual way, except that Crixell placed his gun in front where it could be easily seen. Thus armed, they started for the hotel. The gentlemen had proceeded only a short distance when the New York man gave a modified Comanche yell, and out stepped a deputy sheriff with drawn pistol and ordered "hands up." It is needless to say the hands went up in a hurry. The consternation written upon Mr. Sinsheimer's face may be imagined when the officers announced that the prisoners would have to go to jail as it was then too late to fix bonds. It was then the whisky man began to talk, and it is said by those who heard him that he never talked so hard in trying to sell a bill of liquid refreshment in his life, as he did when the cold comfort of a cell in the county jail was staring them in the face. To make matters worse Mr. Crixell began to use some strong language regarding the deputy sheriff, saying he did not propose to be arrested. This threw Mr. Sinsheimer almost into spasm, he declaring Crixell was making a bad matter worse. The officer, however, was not to be talked out of confining his prisoners, and the start for jail was made. On the way they met some gentlemen who Mr. Sinsheimer knew, and he begged them almost with tears in his eyes, and a suspicious quiver in his voice for "God's sake to do something." At last after much persuasion the officer was induced to wait until the county judge could be interviewed, and if possible, the jail be avoided. The judge was seen and the papers fixed up, upon the solemn promise of the prisoners that they would be on hand at 9 o'clock next morning to answer the charges against them. On inquiring what the probable cost would be Mr. Sinsheimer was told the fine would perhaps be not less than \$500 each and a jail sentence of four to six months, but it was thought may be the jail sentence could be omitted and the fine reduced to \$250 each. Mr. Sinsheimer said he would gladly pay the \$500, but hated like smoke to go to jail. All this happened between 10 and 11 o'clock at night, and until 3 o'clock the next morning the possibility of going to jail in a strange territory, hung like a nightmare over Sinsheimer, especially, Crixell being "onto" the

joke, and displaying only sufficient anxiety to make the matter real. At 3'o'clock a.m. when the man from New York was told the affair was only a joke, the smile that broke over his countenance was a revelation and the burden of trouble which rolled away could almost be seen it was so awfully real. It is safe to say the next time Mr. Sinsheimer visits this section, instead of arming himself with a sixshooter, he will take a battle of "Mount Vernon" whisky, and feel perfectly safe that no officer of the Lower Rio Grande will arrest him for carrying this kind of weapon. The affair was "one on" the New York whisky man, and to hear him tell about it is rich indeed.

1906 Sat Jan 20. BH.  
PERSONALS.

Teofilo and Vicente Crixell are un[sic]expected home tonight from Corpus Christi.

1906 Sat Jan 20. BH.  
WHITE ELEPHANT  
SALOON  
V.L. CRIXELL, Proprietor  
First-class Liquors, Wines,  
Cigars. Polite Attention  
Market Square Brownsville, Texas

1906 Tue Mar 13. BH.  
GIVEN A HEARING. LON C. HILL ADMITTED TO BAIL IN SUM OF \$3000.  
Examining Trial Showed Killing of Theodore F. Dix Was Done in Self Defense.  
Dix had his pistol in hand. Hill told Dix to drop that pistol, Dix saying he would not drop his pistol for any -- --, using some harsh language, at the same time making a move to raise the weapon, whereupon Hill opened fire, shooting three times, the first shot piercing Dix' heart... A considerable number of prominent citizens of Brownsville and other portions of the county attended the examining trial Monday, among them ... V. L. Crixell ...

1906 Sat Apr 14. BH.  
Teofilo and V. L. Crixell were among the excursionists to San Antonio today. Jno. B. Viano was among the passengers out this morning on his way to Bay City.

1906 Fri Jul 20. BH.  
Mrs. T. Crixell and children, Mrs. Gutierrez and children and Mrs. V. L. Crixell and children were among those going down to the Point yesterday afternoon.

1906 Sat Jul 21. BH.  
PERSONALS.  
V. Crixell and family came up from the Point this morning.

1906 Fri Jul 26. BH.

#### HOW THEY STAND ON BOND ISSUE.

Poll of Citizens on Important Question. (many names) V.L. Crixell: "I am heartily in favor of it." T. Crixell: "I will do all I can to carry the election for the bond issue."

1906 Mon Aug 13. The night of "The Brownsville Affray," unknown gang of shooters. Bartender of Ruby Saloon Frank Natus is killed, police Lieutenant Joe Dominguez is seriously wounded. The townspeople blame the Black soldiers of the Twenty Fifth Infantry stationed at Fort Brown, who were not exonerated by Presidential Pardon until 1972.

1906 Tue Dec 11. BH.

Just received at T. Crixell & Bros, Saloon, a large shipment of holiday goods in their line consisting of finest brandies, liquers, and table wines suitable for Christmas and New Years confecttions and dinners. Can also be used at any other time.

1906 Mon Dec 24. BH.

#### City and County Officials Give Pansaje.

A social function somewhat out of the usual order was what is known as a pansaje which was given by a number of the city and county officials yesterday at the Wells ranch one mile below town. A pansaje is a sort of open air banquet, which is an institution peculiar to the Mexican people. It takes its name from the chief dish or piece de resistance served at the feast. This consists of beef, generally a yearling prime and tender, which is cut up into small pieces — including all of the meat, except that of the ribs which are barbecued separately — mixed with a number of seasoning ingredients, and placed in the stomach, or panza, of the animal, securely tied up, and then cooked in a large iron pot in the same way that beef is barbecued; that is, in a pit in the ground. A deep bed of burning coals is at the bottom of the pit and on this the kettle is placed, being carefully covered with large pieces of sheet iron and more coals heaped on top, until it is buried in living coals. About two feet of earth is then thrown on top of this, and the beef remains in this bed of fire for twenty-four hours, after which time it is ready to serve. Those who have partaken of this dish declare it to be excellent. This is what was served yesterday at the said ranch, being accompanied by pickles, olives, bread, coffee, beer and wine, making a rare feast. The hosts on this occasion included the following county and city officials; Judge Bartlett, Sheriff Garza, County Assessor Cavazos, Tax Collector Lerma, County Treasurer Hicks, and City Marshall Connor. The following prominent citizens of Matamoros were among the guests: Dr. Barragan, Gen. Cavazos, Dr. Cicero and Felipe Martinez. Among the guests from Brownsville were noted Judge Wells, Dr. Florence, T. and V. Crixell and others. Two bands of music were in attendance and played throughout the feast. A number of addresses were made and toasts drunk complimentary to both of the sister republics and the people. All who... [Ed., incomplete]

1907 Fri Feb 22. BH.

Joe Crixell, who was summoned as a witness in the Penrose case, returned last night from San Antonio. For some reason or other, the court-martial best knows why, Mr. Crixell was not put on the stand, although he could give some very strong evidence to show that the officers at Fort Brown knew beforehand that the negro soldiers were likely to "shoot up the town."

1907 Fri May 3. BH.

Telegraphic summons as witnesses in the negro soldier case has been received by Joseph Crixell and Victoriano Fernandez. It is to be hoped that Mr. Crixell may be permitted to testify this time.

1907 Fri/Sat May 24-25. Testimony of Joseph L. Crixell before the Committee on Military Affairs, United States Senate, "The Brownsville Affray," 60<sup>th</sup> Congress, 1907-08, 1<sup>st</sup> Session, Senate Documents, Vols 19-23, #5252-6.

1907 Sat May 25. The Washington Post, (Washington, D.C.)

OFFICERS LIKED CRAPS.

Brownsville Man Says They Played Above Saloon. MACKLIN WAS APPREHENSIVE. Captain Told Saloon-keeper "Niggers Might Jump Fence and Shoot Up D----d Town" – Witness Creates Laughter by Responses to Senator Foraker's Cross-examination – Saw Soldiers Firing.

Five witnesses testified yesterday in the Brownsville investigation before the Senate Committee on Military Affairs. Teofilo Martinez, a Mexican, who lived in a house next to the barracks, told of four bullets having been fired into his house from a point thought to be somewhere in Company C barracks. Albert W. Billingsley, a dairyman, testified that the only thing he had ever heard against negro soldiers being garrisoned at Fort Brown was from white soldiers, of the Twenty-sixth Infantry, who did not want to leave [Fort Brown]. He said he preferred negro soldiers as customers to whites, because the negroes used more milk and paid their bills more promptly. Joseph L. Crixell, the saloon-keeper, was subjected to a searching cross-examination. He saw no negro soldiers, but was positive they did the shooting. On the afternoon before the "shooting up" of the town, Capt. Macklin and other officers of the Twenty-fifth Infantry were drinking in his saloon, he said, and Macklin, discussing the act of Customs Officer Tait [Fred Tate] in knocking down a negro soldier with his revolver, said to Crixell ... [incomplete]

Macklin Anticipated Riot

"Maj. Penrose and I have investigated the affair and there is nothing in the story that the negro soldier had elbowed Tait's wife off the sidewalk. The soldiers are being imposed on by citizens and Federal officer. Now, Joe, suppose these niggers should jump the fence some night and shoot up this d----d town. We couldn't prevent it." While this conversation was in progress, Billingsley, the milkman, had entered the saloon, the witness said, and, talking to the saloon-keeper, had remarked that the white officers were as bad as the negro soldiers, and all of them ought to be sent away. After Billingsley

went out Capt. Macklin said to the saloon-keeper, according to the latter's testimony: "Those negroes will surprise that fellow yet." In his cross-examination, Senator Foraker brought out the fact that Crixell leased out gambling paraphernalia in the room above his saloon, and that craps, roulette, and poker were played. "Did the negro soldiers play craps there?" "No," was the reply. "White officers and civilians played craps." "Who played roulette?" persisted Senator Foraker, after the laughter over the first reply had subsided. "Oh, lawyers, doctors, and other good citizens," replied the saloonist.

#### Mayor Produces Letter

Mayor Combe continued his testimony at the morning session. He produced, at the request of Senator Warner, the letter referred to Thursday in which Maj. Penrose, who commanded the negro soldiers at Fort Brown, declared that Private Voschel, a white soldier, could not have overheard the conversation between Mayor Combe and Maj. Penrose concerning the alleged assault by a negro soldier upon a Mrs. Evans. In the letter, Maj. Penrose says Voschel told a deliberate lie and should be brought to justice. The witness, who for a number of years was an army surgeon, testified that he examined the bullet marks on the body of Frank Natus, and gave it as his opinion that the man was killed by a shot from a high-power rifle of the kind used by the negro soldiers. Amos Littlefield, formerly deputy sheriff in Cameron County, Tex., testified that he was awakened by shooting in Brownsville, and, running downtown, saw men shoot into the rear of Tillman's saloon from the alley. He said he followed the group down the alley, and later distinctly saw the men under a street lamp, and recognised them as negro soldiers in uniform. The committee will meet at 10:30 this morning.

1907 Tue Aug 27. BH.

#### A DASTARDLY ASSAULT

Joseph Crixell Stabbed by a Mexican Last Night. The Force of the Blow Was Broken by Mr. Crixell's Dexterity but the Blade of the Dagger Cut a Gash Over the Heart.

A dastardly attempt was made at an early hour this morning to assassinate Joseph L. Crixell as he was on his way home after the close of business. After the saloon was closed last night, he stayed in the building some time before starting for home. He had only gone a few blocks when a Mexican sprang out of an alley and lounged [sic] at Mr. Crixell with a dagger. He saw the glint of the steel and threw up his left arm to ward off the blow and bent back in an attempt to avoid the descending blade. The power of the blow was broken and the dagger failed to reach the spot aimed at with the force intended. As it was Mr. Crixell's clothing was slit open and a wound about two inches long and half an inch deep cut right over the heart. The force of the blow and the fact that he bent back to avoid the blow caused Mr. Crixell to stumble and he fell to the ground. His assailant thought he had accomplished his purpose and turned to flee, but before he got very far, Mr. Crixell managed to fire two shots at the assassin. The affair caused great excitement as soon as it became known in the city, and all day friends were visiting Mr. Crixell and congratulating him on the narrow escape he had gone through. He said he did not believe the man who made the assault was a resident of Brownsville. He believed he was a resident of some other place, and that for some reason unfathomable he had made

the attempt as above related.

1907 Mon Oct 14. BH.

GRAND OPERA IN MATAMOROS. Signora Chalia as "Leonora" in Verdi's "Il Trovatore" Owing to the enterprise of Mr. Teofilo Crixell, the people of Matamoros and Brownsville were able to enjoy last night the entrancing music of Verdi's famous opera "Il Trovatore" sung by the best company of artistes ever heard in the opera house in Matamoros. An audience composed of the best families in both cities attended the opera despite the miserable weather, and the building was comfortably filled.

1907 Wed Nov 6. BH.

OFF TO HOUSTON. Brownsville delegation Leaves to Attend the Waterways Convention. A large and enthusiastic delegation of Brownsville representatives left on this morning's train for Houston to attend the waterways convention which meets there tomorrow. The members were provided with handsome white ribbon badges bearing the word "Brownsville," which will serve to indicate to the outside world that this place is in the forefront on the question of improving the inland waterways of the state. Among those who left, the reporter observed the following: Judge John Bartlett, Frank Champion, A. A. Browne, Dr. S. K. Hallam. T. Crixell, V. L. Crixell, Louis Kowalski, Martin Hanson, Joseph Webb, E. E. Green, C. E. Hammond, Frank Rabb, (etc.)

1907 Fri Dec 6. BH.

Real Estate Transfers.

V. L. Crixell to San Benito Land and Water Co., one lot, San Benito, \$300.

1907 Fri Dec 27. BH.

Real Estate Transfers

Following are the real estate transfers filed for record in Cameron county during the past week: San Benito Land and Water Co., to V. L. Crixell, town lot, San Benito, \$200.

1908. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Mayor Fred J. Combe, Aldermen Jas. A. Browne, William Putegnat, Crixell, Celaya, S. C. Tucker, Geo. Champion and S. L. Dworman, City Secretary Frank Champion, City Marshal George Conner.

1908 Tue May 5. BH.

CHARGED WITH SWINDLING. Joseph Stahl, who Asked for Sewer Franchise, is Under Arrest.

...came here recently from San Diego, Cal., was arrested by Joseph Crixell. Mr. Crixell claims to have been victimized by advancing the sum of \$115 on a draft ... through (Brownsville bank) ...marked "Hold five days."... (Crixell) received the following reply

...from (San Diego)...”No such company...” ...Stahl ...applicant for a franchise for the construction of a sewer system in this city.

1908 Jul. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Prohibition public speaking assembly in Washington Park interrupted by person(s) throwing brickbats. Topic was submission of prohibition amendment.

1908 Mon Jul 13. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Liquor licenses issued to Jose Trevino, Teofilo and J. L. [Crixell], V. . Crixell, H. Martinez, T. Gonzalez, Jose Manzano, Nicolas S. Lozano, Jno. Simo Jr., H. H. Weller, Hugh Robinson and Jose Saenz.

1908 Jul. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Celedonio Garza elected Cameron County Sheriff (601 votes to J. A. Champion 38). S. C. Tucker is manager and part owner of People's Ice Company. Brownsville & Gulf railroad track runs through the city on Twelfth St from the river to Rio Grande Station.

1908 Aug. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Official existence of the local Independent [“Red”] party established after nominees file application with county judge to have names printed as candidates for office. Joseph Crixell runs for Tax Collector, George Champion for Tax Assessor. R. B. Creager for County Judge, and Aug. Celaya for Sheriff. Democratic [“Blue”] nominees are (in part): County Judge, John Bartlett; County Attorney, E. K. Goodrich; County Clerk, J. Webb; County Sheriff, Celedonio Garza; J. P. Precinct No. 2, Valentin Gavito.

1908 Mon Aug 31. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Independents and Democrats hold meetings and parade streets with brass bands. Independents elect permanent officers. V. L. Crixell, President; J. P. Reyes, Vice-President; Teofilo Crixell, Treasurer; R. Trevino, secretary. Directors: D. Buiturrera, C. Olivera, M. Garcia and T. Hernandez. Meeting place in the Armstrong building called Independent Club.

1908 Sat Sep 26. BH.

PERSONALS.

Mr. and Mrs. Vicente Crixell and children left today on a visit of several weeks to Monterey.

1908 Wed Nov 18. BH.

DIFFICULTY IN A SALOON. STATEMENT OF AN EYE-WITNESS AS TO WHERE AND WHY IT OCCURRED. Complaint Filed by Worsted Combatant May Lead to Complications – Movement of Pastors and Citizens to Have Sunday Law Enforced.

In the account of the trouble between Teofilo Crixell and C. L. Harrison, published yesterday, The Herald stated that the difficulty occurred in a room over the saloon of T.

Crixell on Elizabeth Street and that Crixell was later arrested by Constable Justino Lopez. This information was obtained from a statement made to County Attorney Goodrich by Harrison, but from an eye-witness, whose statement follows, it seems that the difficulty occurred in the saloon and not in the room above and was the result, according to this eye-witness, of violent and abusive language applied by Harrison to Crixell. It also transpires that Crixell was arrested by Ranger Captain T. M. Ross and not by Lopez. The eye-witness noted above is J. E. McDougal, bartender at Crixell's saloon, and his statement as given to a Herald reporter this morning is as follows: "Harrison came to me Monday afternoon and asked me to let him have \$10 on an order on a merchant here in the city. I told him that I could not let him have the money but would send a hackman down to the store and have him get it cashed for him. In the meantime Mr. Crixell came into the saloon. Harrison got him to write the order for him and sent it down to the merchant. In a short while the hackman returned and stated that the merchant had refused to cash the order. Mr. Crixell then 'phoned the merchant and he in reply to Mr. Crixell's query stated that Harrison had come to him personally and gave him explicit instructions not to cash any checks or orders coming from him but to give the money to him only when he requested it in person. When Mr. Harrison was informed by Crixell as to what the merchant had said he ordered a round of drinks and began to abuse Mr. Crixell and I for not letting him have the money. Mr. Crixell then told him to go down and get his own money to which Harrison replied that he (Crixell) was trying to rob him and also said that he had robbed him. Mr. Crixell then told him that he did not wish to have any trouble with him and for him to go on. Harrison then again began abusing Mr. Crixell and also applied a number of vile epithets to him, upon which Mr. Crixell seized a bottle and threw it at him, the bottle striking Harrison upon the side of the head, glancing off, hitting the wall and breaking." Mr. McDougal stated that he then caught Harrison by the arm and led him out of the front door of the saloon, remonstrating with him upon his actions and also advising him in a friendly manner to leave before he should get into any more trouble. When asked by the reporter as to the alleged poker game in a room above the saloon, Mr. McDougal replied that there was no such room used for that purpose nor had there ever been. He also stated that at the time of the trouble Mr. Crixell had just returned from collecting and that while Harrison was engaged in conversation with him he (Crixell) was engaged in counting his money which he had just placed on the rear bar. He further stated that Mr. Crixell had been out of the saloon practically all of the morning collecting, which fact was verified by others. The Herald has been unable to obtain a statement from Mr. Crixell as yet as he is at present out of the city.

#### Harrison Files Complaint

"In the name and by the authority, of the State of Texas: Before me, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Charles L. Harrison, who, after being duly sworn on oath deposes and says: That heretofore to-wit, on or about the 16th day of November, A. D., 1908, and before the making and filing of this complaint, in the County of Cameron and State of Texas. Will Donman and Teofilo Crixell of said county and State, did then and there unlawfully keep a room or place to bet, wager and gamble with cards. (Signed) C. L. HARRISON. Against the peace and dignity of the State. Sworn to

and subscribed before me, this 17th day of November, A. D. 1908. (Signed) VALENTIN GAVITO, Justice of the Peace Precinct No. 2 Cameron County, Texas.”

1909 Fri Apr 2. BH.

Notice

Having this day sold my restaurant, known as the Metropolitan Restaurant, to J. L. Crixell of this city, I desire to thank the public for their kind and liberal patronage during my ownership of same. I respectfully solicit of all my patrons that they accord Mr. Crixell the same kind and liberal treatment tendered me. I also beg to advise that any accounts outstanding against the Metropolitan Restaurant up to March 22nd, 1909, be presented to me as early as possible for settlement, as Mr. Crixell's account dates from the 23rd of March. J. A. CLOETTA.

1909 Sat Apr 3. BH.

HARLINGEN - Work has begun on the ice house, which T. Crixell is building here. When completed, it is the intention of Mr. Crixell to supply Harlingen with ice.

1909 Tue Jul 6. BH.

[Ed., summary: physical fight outside a restaurant] ...About that time, Alderman Crixell appeared upon the scene and asked the Bruiser what he meant by such unseemly behavior. For answer the bruiser landed one on Alderman Crixell's cupola, knocking him down. Mr. Crixell arose quickly to his feet. He was mad clear through. Grabbing a brick and seeing one Thomas Wood, who was with the bruiser, he let the aforesaid Thomas have one in the face with the brick, badly breaking Thomas' mug and loosening several of his teeth. ...(Bruiser to jail) is a stranger in (town)... Wood, ... stated to Mayor Combe...he did not even know (Bruiser)...was pasted with a brick. Alderman Crixell seemed inclined to believe the story told by Wood and himself paid the fine of \$5...assessed against Wood...

1909 Tue Sep 14. BH.

INDEPENDENT CLUB ELECTED OFFICERS.

At Meeting Held at New Headquarter in the Little Opera House Saturday Night.

...This meeting was to have been held August 25, that being the first anniversary of the founding of the club, but on account of unfavorable weather conditions...postponed. It was quite an enthusiastic gathering. A band furnished music for the occasion and a number of speeches were made by various members. The following officers were elected for the coming year: President, V. L. Crixell; first vice president, Idodoro Garza; secretary, R. Trevino; treasurer, A. B. Cole; PRO-SECRETARY, Frank Valdez; Directors: Jose Ayala, Dan Buitureira, T. Hernandez, P. Lerma, M. J. Garcia, Antonio Alonzo, William Shears and Adrean Ortiz. ...

1909 Wed Oct 20. BH.

ALMOST READY FOR CONVENTION. Plans Discussed at Last Night's meeting.

Committees Report \$750 Collected Two Sleepers Engaged – Belated One Must Register at Corpus Christi Commercial Club.

Between thirty and forty prominent business men of the city were present last night at the federal court room at the meeting called for the purpose of formulating plans for the Brownsville delegation at the Interstate Waterways convention to be held at Corpus Christi tomorrow and Friday. .... The report of the committee on soliciting funds for the purpose of taking the local military company and the Mexican military band of Matamoros with the Brownsville delegation was read. .... T. Crixell had made arrangements with a hotel in Corpus for the board and lodging of the military band of Matamoros at a cost of \$1 per day per man, the expense of which is to be borne by Brownsville. Mr. Crixell said he had met Lieutenant J. C. Wereford of the Brownsville Rifles in Corpus and that he had selected a site for the camp for the Rifles which would be in readiness for the soldier boys upon their arrival in the city. ... Mr. Hanson then nominated V. L. Crixell to act as marshal for the Brownsville delegation during their parade at Corpus, which nomination was seconded by A. C. Brokaw and carried. ...

1909 Tue Nov 9. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

George Conner resigns as Chief of Police [City Marshal] and is appointed by Mayor Combe to fill unexpired term of assessor and collector. J. L. Crixell who was U. S. Customs Inspector is appointed for unexpired term of Chief of Police.

1909 Thu Nov 11. BH.

LOCAL ITEMS. Uncle Sam Needs Inspector.

There is now a vacancy in the custom service at Brownsville no one having been appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the recent resignation to [sic] J. L. Crixell. There is little likelihood that an appointment will be made, until the return of Collector of Customs R. B. Creager, who is now in San Antonio.

1910 Tue Jan 4. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Crixell fires Officer Leal and promoted Felix Calderon and Francisco Villarreal from foot to mounted police with raise in salary from \$25 to \$40 a month.

1910 Wed Jan 12. BH.

Appropriate New Year's Gift –

Customs Inspector Louis Laulom is the proud possessor of a handsome new badge, presented to him by Joseph Crixell on New Year's day. The badge bears a United States shield with the words: "United States Customs Inspector" around it, in gold on a silver background. Mr. Laulom is Mr. Crixell's uncle and recently succeeded Mr. Crixell as customs inspector.

1910 Wed Jan 12. BH.

A Second Fire Alarm

No sooner had the fire boys returned to headquarters from the fire at the V. L. Crixell

residence yesterday afternoon than a second call from the fire bell started them on another run to the western limits of Ward 1.

1910 Thu Mar 24. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Suspended From Police Force. Officer Crafts Pleads Guilty to Assault and is Fined. Was Acquitted by Jury on Similar Charge in Recorder's Court Yesterday Morning. Grew Out of Disturbance at Baile Sunday Night: Crafts had been recently appointed and had four complaints for assault and battery (he struck victims on head with gun).

1910 Mon April 4 1910. BH.

LOCAL NEWS. Postponed Until Thursday. –

The case against Guadalupe Torres, accused of throwing a brick Friday night which struck Vicente Crixell on the head, came up for trial in the recorder's court this morning. but was continued until Thursday morning on the plea of the defendant.

1910 Thu Apr 7. BH.

INDEPENDENT CELEBRATION. MONSTER PARADE AND MEETING AT CELFORD  
General Good Feeling and Promises of Faithful Performance of Pledges Marked the Occasion –  
Collector of Customs Creager the Chief Speaker.

The leading [ ] of the meeting held by the Independent-Red club adherents last night for the purpose of celebrating the victory of the Independent ticket was the speech by Collector of Customs R B. Creager, leader of the Independent forces. ... He "rubbed it in" a bit, however, in referring to the rival political club, to which he referred as "the notorious Blue club," an organization which he had fought for ten years "because it stood for retrogression instead of progress." He predicted the early demise of that organization and the great applause of his followers intimated a general hope that the Blues might "be a long time dead." ... The meeting, which was held immediately following the parade was largely attended and enthusiastic. The audience was made up largely of Mexicans, who called for many talks from their favorite speakers and demanded much "music". between speeches. The two bands which had furnished music for the marchers were brought into the hall playing at full speed and thereafter burst into melody whenever the chance offered.

Mayor Combe's Compliments

V. Crixell, presided over the gathering. He made a short address n Spanish, in which he informed his hearers that Mayor Combe, to show his friendly feeling, will present a gold headed cane, inscribed with his initials, and the date of his election and will give City Marshal Crixell a gold badge. Mayor-elect Kowalski, holding in his hand a hand [ ] bouquet, sent, it was announced, as a token from the Fourth ward, briefly expressed his thanks to those who supported him and repeated his promise to carry out the pledge of the platform. ...

A Portrait of President Crixell

During the evening, J. J. Garcia, a one-armed painter, possessing [ ] four fingers, presented to the club a large oil painting of the president of the Independent Club,

Vicente Crixell, in which the head of the latter is shown with American and Mexican flags on either side, the word "Libertad" above and a broken chain below.

The Big Parade.

... [Ed., torch lights, paper lanterns] Practically the entire population of Brownsville was out during the progress of the parade, those who were not in line thronging the sidewalks and porches along the route. V. Crixell and J. Reyes on horseback led the line of march preceded by a band and some mounted officers. Then came the voters afoot followed by more music, and a reg.

1910 Tue May 3. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

J. L. Crixell rounds up six stray burros from city streets.

1910 Tue May 10. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

B. Kowalski is Mayor. Tucker resigns as Alderman, Browne seat declared vacant for want of attendance. Alderman Crixell serves on street and bridge committee.

1910 Wed May 11. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Brownsville population reached 10,000.

1910 Thu May 12. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

RGRR to be sold at public auction.

1910 Tue May 17. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

J. L. Crixell presented with gold badge at Independent Party banquet. On the front, "City Marshal, Brownsville, Texas" and on the reverse side: "Joseph Crixell, elected by the Independent Party, April 5, 1910." Collector of Customs R. B. Creager made presentation speech. Twenty eight friends from both sides of river attended.

1910 Wed May 18. BH.

A christening. —

At the Catholic church in this city Sunday, the 15<sup>th</sup>, Adolfo, the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Vicente L. Crixell was christened at the Catholic church in this city. The sponsors were Mr. and Mrs. Adolfo Garate. A celebration of the event followed the ceremony at the home of the parents. The sponsors distributed handsome souvenirs of the occasion among the friends of the little Christian.

1910 Sat May 21. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Temperance Committee (Presbyterian Church) makes headlines with movement to eliminate liquor traffic in the United States.

1910 Sun May 22. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

City owns right of way to the river front.

1910 Thu May 26. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Sixty feet of track laid on 12<sup>th</sup> St by St. L., B. & M. RR and tore up immediately during afternoon. Alderman Crixell ordered work to halt. Mayor Kowalski and fourteen laborers lifted track which had not been spiked. Railroad engineer in charge of bridge work. A. Franke ordered Kelley to resume work. Officer Crafts drew his gun and threatened to shoot. Franke was arrested (on his own suggestion), jailed and released. He returned and removed tracks. Alderman Crixell put a force of men to work to erect a barbed wire fence along line of street claimed by city with no trespassing sign. Legal dispute over legality of action and claim of property followed.

1910 Wed Jun 1. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Lt. of Police Dominguez in command of city force while J. Crixell in Corpus Christi on police business.

1910 Tue Jun 7. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Headline "RR Gets Right of Way..."

1910 Wed Jun 8. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

W. Crafts resigns from police force and replaced by Justo Herrera (former city constable) by J. Crixell.

1910 Fri Jun 10. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

"Ferry Company Claims 12<sup>th</sup> St. - South of Levee and warns city against usurpation."

1910 Tue Jun 14. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Crixell on Sanitary Committee publishes notice of measure to ensure improved sanitary conditions in city.

1910 Tue Jun 28. BH.

SPECIAL ELECTION AUGUST SECOND. TO VOTE ON SIDEWALK AND STREET IMPROVEMENT.

The election offices and polling places named for the street and sidewalk improvement election are as follows: 1st Ward M. Fernandez .... 2nd Ward V. Crixell

1910 Thu Jul 7. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

H. F. Allgood appointed supernumerary police by J. Crixell upon approval of the council.

1910 Wed Jul 13. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

City Marshal Crixell and County Sheriff Garza met to discuss cooperation after a prisoner was released from county jail after being arrested by Crixell on theft charge.

1910 Fri Jul 22. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

J. Crixell, George Connors and Sheriff Garza endorse Colquitt for governor at Blue Club

meeting. New officers of the Blue Club named...

1910 Tue Jul 26. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*  
"Rio Grande RR Sold"

1910 Wed Jul 27. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*  
"County Authorities Release City Prisoner... Clash of Authorities Over Case Threatens."  
J. Crixell sick in bed at this time.

1910 Sun Aug 28. The Laredo Times (Laredo, Texas).  
PERSONALS.

Mr. Vincent L. Crixell, a prominent citizen and president of the Independencia Club of Brownsville is in the city on business and will be here a day or two.

1910 Mon Oct 10. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*  
District Court Judge W. B. Hopkins bans guns in court.

1910 Mon Oct 10. BH.

#### INDEPENDENTS PRESENT CLAIMS

The president of the club Vicente Crixell, rapped his gavel, ... The candidates on the platform were C. H. More, Agustin Celaya, Celedonia Garza, and I. B. Pucate. Others in the semi-circle were Teofilo Crixell, R. B. Creager, H. Reyes, L. L. Cain, and Rev. T. Hernandez. ... R.B. Creager gave the history of the Independent movement, from before the advent of the railroad until 1908, giving as the reason for successive defeats that national and local issues had been wrongly confounded. This he said, is a campaign where party lines are obliterated, and both democratic and republicans are on the ticket and the ticket appeals for support to members of both parties. He announced that there are two issues in the contest – first, honesty and impartiality in the administering of county affairs, and second a live [?], up-to-date business administration. Alleging certain abuses in the past Mr. Creager charged the Democratic party with lack of road improvement, the neglect of the schools, resulting in the inability of 95 per cent of the population to speak or understand English because incompetent teachers were employed, many of whom he said were unable to speak it themselves, and the failure to spend county funds for the county's benefit.

1910 Tue Oct 11. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*  
Independent platform and candidates listed.

1910 Wed Oct 12. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*  
J. Crixell in command again but still sick.

1910 Thu Oct 13. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*  
Intimidation of voters.

1910 Wed Oct 19. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Independent leaders launch campaign by automobile.

1910 Sat Oct 22. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Bollack building. Democrats to Organize.

1910 Mon Oct 24. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Hats for Police Force.

1910 Mon Oct 24. BH.

CHARGES AND INSINUATIONS. Independent Meeting on Saturday Night.

Vicente Crixell president of the club, presided, and introduced the speakers. ... Lon C. Hill, candidate for sheriff followed. ...

1910 Tue Oct 25. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Democratic Club organized.

1910 Wed Oct 26. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Object to Police Frequenting Saloons. County roads big issue - Ind. Platform published. Maladministration by appointing non-English speaking teachers to classroom. Harlingen Democratic Club organized.

1910 Sat Oct 29. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Democratic Club platform.

1910 Mon Oct 31. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Alleged Pistol Toters arrested - they are supernumerary policement Jose Ayala and Thomas Cortez for shooting at ducks while passengers on the RGRR train to Port Isabel.

1910 Mon Nov 1. BH.

Two More Indictments

The grand jury Saturday, handed in two true bills to the district court one for the theft of property valued at more than \$50 and the other for criminal assault. For the latter offense Andres Uresti was arrested and released on habeas corpus proceedings in the sum of \$1,500. Teofilo and V. L. Crixell furnished the bond. No arrest has as yet been made in the first case.

1910 Tue Nov 1. BH.

Brownsville Has Many Policemen - Mayor appoints special officers – others are [Ed., scpes?]. – Alderman Crixell and Brothers Made Specials, Their Lives Alleged to Have Been Threatened – The Town Is Alive With Guardians of Peace.

Brownsville at present probably has more armed men, carrying weapons under appointment as peace officers than any other town of 10,000 population in the state. In

addition to the eleven regular police, including the city marshal, Lieutenant Police Trevino and Court House Officer M. Y. Domingues – formerly lieutenant of police – four mounted police and five foot police there are seven special officers holding appointment under the mayor and thirteen supernumeraries. These, at least, are all of which any official record could be obtained. It is reported that there are a great many more police appointees, who are carrying pistols under some authority or other, just what is not definitely stated, but so far this report has not been verified. The inquiry grew out of the arrest of two men who were arrested on the train coming from Point Isabel Sunday who were charged with unlawfully carrying pistols which they were shooting from the train. These men showed official appointment as special police. Two other arrests of men carrying pistols at the [Hicks?] ranch several days ago also produced similar authority to carry pistols. Saturday night at the entrance to the Delivins [?], where the Mexican democrat organization held its meeting five armed police on horseback were stationed. The prevalence of armed men wearing police badges has given rise to the report that they are from 40 to 60 of these guardians of the peace on our streets. The number may be exaggerated but the fact remains that the town has a very large police force, though all are said to be not on active duty. The special police named by the mayor are: Capt. Frank Johnson, former ranger captain, Teofilo Crixell, who is a member of the city council, Vicente Crixell, Louis Crixell, Pedro Lerma, Al Rocha and Eduardo Vera. These names were furnished The Herald by the mayor who stated that Alderman Crixell and his brothers had been appointed special police because their lives had been threatened. Henry [Ed., “Verhelle”?] and [Ed., “Mrcel Alonano”?] Jr also held commissions as special police.

1910 Fri Nov 4. BH.

**MAYOR DELEGATED HIS AUTHORITY.** Developments of Arrest of Two Special Policemen – Marshal Charges Certain Men Are Carrying Weapons as Deputies Who Are Not Authorized.

The Herald of last Monday reported the arrest of Jose Ayala and Tomas Cortez, while returning from Point Isabel on Sunday, for unlawfully carrying arms and, in the article printed Tuesday, on the police situation stated that the two men showed official appointments as special police as authority for carrying pistols. Each of those appointments which were the same form as the copy which was given in yesterday's Herald, bore, in the proper places the signatures, B. Kowalski, as mayor, and J. L. Crixell as city marshal, respectively, but the oath following was not signed. This morning, it was admitted by the mayor, that the signature purporting to be his was not made by him but presumably by Emile Wise to whom he said he had upon request, given authority to sign his name. Mr. Wise, the mayor said, had called him up by phone last Saturday evening or Sunday morning he could not remember which, and requested the appointment ...for the purpose of providing police protection at an independent meeting within the city limits... Later, on thinking the matter over, and looking up the law, he decided that he had acted wrongly and determined, he says, to revoke the appointment the next day and would have done so, even if the arrests had not occurred. ... The shooting which caused the arrest of

Ayala and Cortez was done on the return trip from the rear platform of the last car, and Mr Wise claims were almost immediately following the firing of several shots from the forward part of the train, for which no one seems to have been arrested. ...Crixell told (reporter) today that he had signed the blanks shortly after noon on last Saturday supposing that they were to be taken to the mayor and signed also by him and the men sworn in. ... It is known, though, that Mayor Kowalski was called before the grand jury and questioned... Marshal Crixell charged that four certain persons, two employed by the county as jailers, are carrying arms presumably as deputy sheriffs. ... (no) right to go armed. If they do so within the city, Marshal Crixell has power to arrest them. ... (He) also said he would like to know why several pistol toting cases that have been pending in the county court for a long time have not been tried... he charged that the Herald is "afraid to publish (the names)." If he arrests the men named by him and makes formal complaint against them The Herald will publish the facts. It is not this paper's custom to publish accusations against any person unless they are matter of court record. As to The Herald's being "afraid," no doubt Mr. Crixell was only jesting.

1910 Sat Nov 5. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

#### Mayor Will Not Reduce the Force

Recent appointments of supernumeraries and special police acting irresponsibly raise concern among Democratic Club committee (S. H Bell, John Bartlett and Ira Webster) to prevent intimidation of voters. They want force reduced and preservation of peace to be entirely left to Sheriff, constable and deputies and Chief of Police and policemen. Mayor Benjamin Kowalski responded by stating that reports in local papers that forty policemen had been appointed were false and that only nine special police were appointed. This measure, he added, was no different a precaution as other municipalities nearing the time of elections "within a week or ten days of a hotly contested election when there is more drinking and consequent drunkenness, yelling and other disturbances of like character upon the streets at night." He also added that intimidation of voters by policemen would not be tolerated if the malicious rumors were true.

1910 Wed Nov 9. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

#### Democrats Win County Election.

1910 Tue Nov 15. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Herald reports that Mayor Kowalski's appointed special police were taken out of city to attend barbeque (political rally) and allowed to wear their pistols without being sworn in. Mayor accuses Herald of bipartisan [?] unfair press. Aldermen are: Blackshear, Thorn, Crixell, More, Cain and McGary.

1910 Mon Nov 28. BH.

COUNTY OFFICERS' BONDS TO BE APPROVED TODAY. Commissioners Hold Special Session to Transact This and Any Other Matters to come Up.

W. A. Hausman, justice of the peace, precinct No. 7. Sureties, R. B. Creager and V. L.

Crixell. Enrique Cabrera, constable precinct No. 7. Sureties R. B. Creager and V. L. Crixell.

1910 Tue Nov 29. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Officers William Crafts and Jesus Trevino charged with disorderly conduct after Crafts had taken gun away from Felipe Hernandez earlier that day.

1910 Mon Dec 5. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Officer Ygnacio Trevino arrested by Ranger Hale (cause unknown) and taken to Rio Grande City.

1910 Fri Dec 9. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Judge Bartlett dismisses Felipe Hernandez case. Hernandez attorneys were Dancy and Webster. Case had been appealed from the corporation court to county court. Lower court had not affixed its seal to the papers at the time of the trial based on Article 9 Section 7 of the Original Act of 1899. Cases of Modesto Garcia Juan Garcia, Justino Lopez and Romuldo Trevion were affected by the same ruling. Herald investigates and finds that seal was in city hall but not in use.

1910 Mon Dec 12. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

D. McLendon fired upon at night while sleeping in his home. Missed being hit by six inches Crixell and officers, assisted by Deputy Sheriff Haley and Deputy Constable Wallis, follow tracks and arrest J. L. Dodson's son Frank.

1910 Sat Dec 24. BH.

POLICE ACCUSED OF BEATING PRISONER. LAREDO PUBLISHER OF SPANISH PAPER ARRESTED. Charge: Disorderly Conduct. His Paper Published Articles Reflecting Upon Certain Persons in Brownsville During Recent Political Campaign.

In the recorder court yesterday morning the case of Priciliano Aldama, of Laredo, arrested Thursday afternoon on a charge of being drunk and using obscene language, was continued until Monday morning on account of the absence of some of the witnesses in the case. "Officer I. Trevino and Wm. Crafts arrested Priciliano Aldama for being drunk on the street," is the way the case is entered on the police docket at the city hall. Mr Aldama is the publisher of the "Guarda del Bravo," a Spanish paper, at Laredo, in which a number of anonymous articles were published during the last political campaign which were very discreditable to the Messrs. Crixell and others of Brownsville. The case was the main topic of discussion among many of our citizens yesterday, on account of the alleged brutal treatment of Aldama by the policemen who arrested him. The arrest was made by Officers Crafts and Ignacio Trevino in the saloon of Vicente Crixell opposite Market Plaza. The alleged disturbance for which Aldama was arrested is said by the police to have occurred about three o'clock in a saloon on Elizabeth street. The arrest occurred about an hour later. The officers claim that they did not beat Aldama as alleged, but say that they punched him in the legs with their clubs when he refused to go up the

stairway leading to the city jail. Eye witnesses contradict this. Among these is Prof. J. R. Viano, the piano tuner, who was at V. Crixell's place at the time. He asserts that Aldama did not resist the officers and did not appear to be intoxicated, and that he saw the officers raining blows upon the arms and shoulders of the prisoner, who was holding his arms over his head to prevent their striking him on the head. Prof. Viano says further that he approached the officers and begged them to stop beating Aldama, denouncing their act as shameful, whereupon Policeman Crafts turned and threatened him with his club also. Vicente Crixell informed the reporter that Aldama had just finished apologizing to him for the articles published in the *Guardia*, and that Aldama was not intoxicated nor had he heard the man use any obscene language. The reporter called at the city jail about an hour after the arrest to see Aldama, but was told by a policeman that the prisoner was "too drunk to talk." It was learned afterwards that Aldama was released on bond within an hour after he was arrested. Mayor Kowalski yesterday denounced the story of the beating of Aldama as merely told to throw discredit upon the police force.

1910 Sat Dec 24. BH.

pp1/6. TWO WOUNDED IN NIGHT SHOOTING. DEPUTY CONSTABLE BAKER AND OFFICER TREVINO THE VICTIMS. Former Hit Three Times and Latter Once. Wounds Not Serious. Arrest of Deputy Sheriff by City Police Led Up to Trouble.

A.R. Baker, former state ranger, was wounded three times, and Ignacio Trevino, a city policeman, once, last night in a shooting affray at the White Elephant saloon on the south side of the market square. Two shots hit Baker from behind, one in the left shoulder and one in the left leg and the third caught him in the front of the abdomen and slightly to the left. Following the shooting, he walked to Putegnat's Pharmacy, from which a little later he was removed to the Works Sanitarium. An examination showed that none of the bullets had reached any of the internal organs and the wounds are not believed to be dangerous. Trevino was hit in the abdomen close to the navel. but, luckily, the bullet made only a flesh wound. As far as can be ascertained, 4 or 5 men in all took part in the affair and more than a dozen shots were fired, but Baker and Trevino are the only ones known to have been wounded. The shooting occurred about 9.49 o'clock. The actual cause of the shooting could not be learned last night, and there is also some doubt as to the identity of all the shooters. According to Deputy Constable H. Wallis [ ] times and Baker 5, all of which shots were aimed from the doorway at persons inside the saloon. Wallis claims that Vicente Crixell, proprietor of the White Elephant saloon fired two or more shots and that Trevino also did some firing. Baker said he is not certain, but thinks it was Crixell who shot him. While Mr. Crixell denies absolutely even having his pistol out. The latter holds a commission as a special policeman issued by Mayor Kowalski shortly before the last election. An influencing factor, leading up to the encounter was the arrest of Guillermo Sosa of Point Isabel last night by Policeman Crafts for carrying a gun. Sosa is said to be a deputy sheriff appointed recently by Sheriff Ryan, but according to Marshal Crixell's interpretation of the statute, a deputy sheriff has no right to carry a gun outside his own precinct, and he has issued orders to the city officers to arrest all who are found doing so. Crafts relieved Sosa of his gun but turned him loose. Shortly after

the latter met John Scanlan at Elizabeth and 12th streets and told him of what had happened. The latter was on his way to the ferry to finish up his work for the night, but told Sosa to await his return when he would see what could be done. He suggested that Sosa (Ed., illegible) ed out to find him. At 12th street and the Market Square, they met Officers Crafts and Trevino and Wallis told Crafts that a mistake had been committed and the gun should be returned to Sosa. Crafts replied that he was acting under orders, but suggested calling Marshal Crixell by phone from the White Elephant saloon and asking him what to do about it. Both Crafts and Wallis spoke over the wire to the latter who had gone home early, feeling unwell, and, according to those concerned, the matter seemed to have been adjusted satisfactorily. Accounts of what happened thereafter, differ materially. There were in the saloon at the time, besides Baker, Wallis, Crafts, Trevino and Vicente Crixell, T Gonzales, T. Cortez, X. Gomez of Falfurrias and the bartender and city officer Calderon was standing outside in the gutter. The White Elephant has two doorways about 4 feet apart opening from the market plaza. The men at this time were grouped near the entrance on the 11th street side. Trevino, on the west side of the doorway, Wallis just inside, Crixell on the latter's right and facing the street and Baker to the right of Crixell and facing Wallis. Mr. Crixell says that following the talking over the phone, Wallis began to criticize the city police force, for which Mr Crixell ordered him from the saloon, threatening him with arrest if he did not go. After some further words, Wallis, he said, drew a gun from his right jacket pocket, but he (Crixell) caught Wallis' right wrist and Officer Trevino grabbed him by the left shoulder and swung him out of the doorway. Almost immediately the firing began, Crixell said, Wallis opening the engagement. Baker slid out the other doorway, firing as he went. By Mr. Crixell's account, all the shooting was done on the sidewalk, but he did not wait for the finish, leaving by the rear entrance after several shots had been fired. All the other occupants of the saloon left by the same route. The version given by Baker and Wallis differs radically from the above. The wounded man was allowed to talk for a few minutes only, but his account and that given by Wallis agree closely. Following Wallis' talk with Marshal Crixell by phone, the latter spoke for a few minutes with Officer Crafts. Thinking that the matter was settled and that Crafts had received orders to return Sosa's gun, Wallis says that he turned to walk out the doorway in front of him when two shots were fired, almost simultaneously, the powder from one of them striking his left ear. He wheeled quickly drawing his gun, a 32 automatic and pumped four shots in the general direction of the firing being forced to stop because of the jamming of the chamber. As he wheeled, he says he saw the flame leap from Vicente Crixell's gun, as the latter fired at Baker who had started out the other doorway and, another bath of powder fell on him as Trevino shot in his direction.

1910 Tue Dec 27. BH.

SIX ARE ARRESTED – DEPUTY CONSTABLES BAKER AND WALLIS UNDER BOND.  
– To appear before Next Grand Jury – Charged With Assault With Intent to Murder – Four Policement to Appear Before Justice Gavito Friday.

As a consequence of Friday night's shootng affair, Deputy Constable A. R. Baker and

Deputy Constable H. J. Wallis were arrested by Sheriff C. T. Ryan yesterday on a complaint signed by Policeman Ignacio Trevino, charging the two officers with assault with intent to commit murder, and Wm. Crafts, Ignacio Trevino and Feliz Calderon Valdez together with Special Policeman Vicente Crixell, were arrested on a complaint signed by P. D. Haley charging the same offense. Officers Baker and Wallis – Baker who is confined on account of his wounds at the hospital, by his brother, A. Y. Baker – appeared in Justice Gavito's court after the arrest. They waived an examining trial and were placed under a \$1,000 bond each to appear at the next term of the district court which convenes next March. Officers Crafts, Trevino, Valdez and Mr. Crixell, appeared by their attorney, R. B. Creager and were placed under a \$1,000 bond each to appear before Justice Gavito for an examining trial next Friday. The complaints against all of those arrested yesterday were made Saturday but not then served.

Following the shooting.

Officers Crafts, Trevino and Valdez (who) were taken into custody by City Marshal Crixell appeared before the sheriff yesterday morning, while Vicente Crixell appeared before the sheriff and asked to be arrested with the other men. Mr. Crixell claims to have had no part in the affair and said to a Herald reporter yesterday that he wished to establish that fact in court.

Wounded Men Doing Well

Reports from the Works Sanitarium last evening were to the effect that Deputy Constable A. R. Baker who was taken there Friday night after he had been shot three times, was doing very well and no complications were anticipated. Ignacio Trevino, who was taken to the city hall soon after his injury, where he is being cared for by fellow officers, is improving and will be able to be about again in a few days. One of the two bullets which he carried to the hospital with him, the one which was fired from the front and struck in the right side of the abdomen, was extracted by Dr. Fairbanks last Saturday. The bullet in the left shoulder has been located, but as its lodging is deep in the flesh (Ed., illegible) times in the general direction of the Celaya warehouse which adjoins the White Elephant on the 12th street side. He could not recognize this man and make out at whom the shots were (Ed., illegible).

1910 Thu Dec 29. BH.

THIRTY-SIX POLICE ON CITY ROLLS. LARGE NUMBER OF SPECIALS HAVE BEEN MADE. Four of Mayor Kowalski's Sons Among Number, Appointed to Guard Father Who Claims Life Is in Danger.

Brownsville has on its rolls today probably the largest number of policemen, including regulars, supernumeraries and specials, that it has ever had before. According to a list obtained by Sheriff Ryan from City Marshal Crixell and amended by Mayor Kowalski, there are now on the police rolls not less than thirty-one men, while a list given The Herald by Marshall Crixell contains thirty-six names including that of the marshall which is omitted from the other. The list was requested yesterday by the sheriff in order that he and his deputies might know just how many men there are in the town who are authorized to carry pistols as peace officers. The occasion arose on account of the arrest

of one Genaro Padron by the sheriff's deputies on charge of unlawfully carrying a pistol. According to the sheriff, Padron was first observed to be carrying a weapon two nights ago. On being asked by the deputy what authority he had for doing so Padron said he was a special police officer. Yesterday Sheriff Ryan learned that this was not true, and caused the man to be arrested. Padron, it seems, had been a special policeman formerly, but his commission had been revoked. The sheriff then determined to inform himself as stated and obtained a list from the city marshal, which included the following names of officers said by the latter to be duly commissioned as policemen, either as regulars, supernumeraries or special: Regulars and Supernumerary: Joaquin Trevino, Jesus Trevino, Victoriano Fernandez, Wm Crafts, M. L. Domingues, Justo Herrera, Felix Valdez, Jose Trevino, Joseph Algood, E. Cuellar, R. Galvan, Jose Coronado, Andres Valdez, R. Lopez, Julian Barbosa, Ygnacio Trevino, Panfilo Zamorano, Florencio Briseno. SPECIAL: Pedro Ramos, Jesus Arismendis, Teleforo Trevino, (not complete, added) Teofilo Crixell, Louis Crixell, Vicente Crixell...

1910 Fri Dec 30. BH.

City News

The examining trial of City Officers Ignacio Trevino, Felix Calderos Valdez, and Wm. Crafts and Special Policeman Vicente Crixell who were arrested Monday on a charge of assault with intent to commit murder will be held before Justice Gavito this morning. The men are under bond of a thousand dollars each.

1910 Sat Dec 31. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Teofilo Crixell publishes statement regarding report by Brownsville Daily Fan that officers who did not appear for trial and had bonds forfeited. Crixell reported that this was not true and J. P. Gavito had said case had been continued for next Wednesday...and that rumors should not be allowed to make print.

1910 Sat Dec 31. BH.

HEARING POSTPONED UNTIL NEXT WEDNESDAY. Four Defendants in Case of Shooting of Deputy Constable Baker Fail to Appear for Examining Trial.

The examining trials of Policemen Ignacio Trevino, Wm. Crafts and Felix Calderon Valdez and Special Policeman Vicente Crixell, charged with assault with intent to commit murder, which were set for hearing yesterday morning at ten o'clock before Justice of the Peace Gavito, were continued until next Wednesday January 4, 1911 at the same hour by Justice Gavito yesterday, after he had called each case and found that the defendants were not present and that no one was present to represent them. The four defendants were arraigned before Justice Gavito last Monday following their arrest by the county officials, at which time their examining trials were set for yesterday and at which time also they were placed under a thousand dollar bond each to appear yesterday. The court, however did not declare their bond forfeited, as has been erroneously reported, but gave the defendants until next Wednesday to make their appearance. No definite explanation was obtained of the non-appearance of the four defendants at the appointed

time. Some of their friends were under the impression that they had finally decided to waive an examining trial and give bond to appear before the next grand jury, but no such action had been taken.

1911 Sun Jan 8. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Ignacio Trevino returns to the police force after being injured during the shootout at the White Elephant saloon on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of December 1910.

1911 Thu Jan 19. BH.

SHOOTING AFFRAY WILL BE INVESTIGATED. Police Officers Charged With Participation in Shooting on Dec. 23, Have Examining Trial Today.

The three regular city policemen, Ignacio Trevino, Wm. Crafts and Felix Calderon Valdez, and Special Officer Vicente Crixell, all charged with assault with intent to commit murder, growing out of the shooting affray on the night of Dec. 23, at the White Elephant saloon, will be given an examining trial before justice of the Peace Gavito today. The trial has been postponed several times, pending the recovery of Deputy Constable A. R. Baker, who was injured during the shooting that night and on whose injury the complaint was made against the four defendants. Mr. Baker is now out again and able to attend court.

1911 Mon Jan 30. BH.

Mrs. Eliza Crixell of Corpus Christi, mother of the Messrs. Crixell of this city, arrived Saturday in company with her nephew, Alcide Patereau of Plaquemine, La, to spend several weeks in the city, visiting with her sons and other relatives.

1911 Wed Feb 1. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

U. S. Marshalls and Secret Service arrive to investigate violation of neutrality laws (supplying revolutionaries with arms and ammunition in Mexico). No evidence of wrongdoing was discovered. Customs inspectors are added with six U. S. Marshalls to enforce neutrality laws the next day.

1911 Mon Feb 6. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Shooting at saloon on 7<sup>th</sup> St. between Fronton and St. Francis. Antonio Cantu was shot twice by Manuel Alonzo Jr. Bruno Sierra was the owner of the saloon. There was a domino game in progress at the back of saloon when the shooting started.

1911 Sat Feb 11. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Cement mixer Jose Pena Ramirez was stabbed to death by Miguel Sanchez and arrested by Joe Crixell.

1911 Tue Feb 28. BH.

NEGRO SOLDIERS FOUND GUILTY. FINAL VERDICT OF LAST COURT OF INQUIRY. Fully Sustains Former President Roosevelt in Forcing the Penrose Battalion

Out of the Army. Investigation Occupied More Than One Year.

Washington, Feb. 25. By an act of congress, approved March 3, 1909, a court of inquiry was organized to consider charges and testimony relating to the shooting affray which took place at Brownsville, Texas, the night of August 13-14, 1906. ...

[Ed., the soldiers were exonerated by Presidential Pardon in 1972.]

1911 Tue Mar 14. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Twelve St Tracks a Nuisance - Council Takes Action Looking to Removal - Motion to declare railroad tracks a nuisance. City Attorney Hudson will notify St. L., B & M of the action.

1911 Fri Mar 17. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Crixell investigates stolen watch and discovers it. On way to question soldier he finds that the soldier deserted the army.

1911 Mon Mar 27. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

St. L., B & M ask city for permission to establish motor car passenger service between Rio Grande depot and new Mexican National Road in Mexico. The Brownsville and Gulf Company have tracks on 12<sup>th</sup> St. This meeting was to discuss compromises between RR and city. Proposal is rejected by city council on 04/08/1911.

1911 Mon Mar 27. BH.

INTOXICATED POLICEMAN BEATS BREAD PEDDLER. Officer Crafts in Lock-up for Striking Inoffensive Man With Pistol. Not His First Offense.

Saturday afternoon City Policeman Wm. Crafts was arrested on a charge of assault and battery and placed in the city lock up. Following this his suspension from the city's police force for a term of thirty days was ordered by Mayor Kowalski, but City Marshal Jos. Crixell had already executed the suspension. The complaint against Crafts was made by Yrenio Castorena, who sells bread from a basket to customers about town. According to Castorena's story, he and another bread peddler were standing on the street talking, when they saw a prospective customer approaching. He said each had bantered the other to make the sale, which they were negotiating, when Crafts approached them from the rear and began striking him with his pistol over the head and arm. Castorena said he turned around and remonstrated with Crafts, but only received more knocks from the officer. Castorena was badly cut on the head and had some ugly bruises on his arms. According to City Marshal Crixell, Crafts was intoxicated, and Mr Crixell ordered him locked up. Crafts will be tried in the corporation court today and it is possible that another charge against him for assault with a deadly weapon may be made in the justice's or county court.

1911 Sat April 1. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Election Day... When City Will Elect Five Aldermen.

1911 Tue Apr 4. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Celedonio Garza, longtime sheriff, dies.

1911 Thu Apr 6. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Crafts pleads guilty to assault charge made by Alfonso Martinez and pays \$5 fine.

1911 Sat Apr 8. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Marshal Crixell voices complaint against George Putegnat during council meeting. Putegnat, who received a \$10 stipend a month to supply medicines for the city's poor, had not done so for the past three months. The health committee was asked to investigate the druggist.

1911 Thu Apr 20. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Opposed to Beer Saloon - Residents Near 4<sup>th</sup> and Jefferson St File Protests: against Jose Saenz who wants to open a beer saloon. The application was turned down.

1911 Sat Apr 22. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Crixell investigates theft of \$25 from man who allowed another man stay in his home. Thief was also wanted in Mexico for theft of suitcase.

1911 Sun Apr 23. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

First steps to organize a prohibition club in Brownsville. Less than a dozen persons in attendance.

1911 Fri Apr 28. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Policeman Rafael Galvan dies in home after long illness. He was 70 years old and served 12 years on the force and 8 years as a supernumerary.

1911 Mon May 1. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Crixell and Allgood arrest men in Manhattan restaurant for knife fight.

1911 Tue May 9. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Mayor Combe appoints V. Crixell, Thorn and Cain to Police Committee. George Putegnat was exonerated from charges that he was not supplying medicine to poor. His practice was only to fill prescriptions given by the city physician.

1911 Tue May 16. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Anonymous Attempt to Scare City Marshall - Marshall Crixell receives anonymous letter warning him that his life was in danger from three men. Crixell said he was not alarmed by letter and is accustomed to receiving letters warning him.

1911 Tue May 16. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

The old brick building on the corner of Adams and Ninth St is said by old timers to have

been built for "school for colored children" by the Freedman's Bureau said to belong to the new York and Brownsville Improvement Company according to Judge Forto.

1911 Tue Jun 6. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Twelfth St Tracks Must Be Removed - City Council Takes Final Steps To That End - Resolution Adopted Declaring Tracks a Nuisance and Ordering Them Torn Up.

1911 Tue Jun 13. BH.

FOR RENT –

Five room modern cottage—all conveniences. Apply residence of V. L. Crixell, opposite school house. 4-24-11

1911 Sun Jun 18. The Galveston Daily News (Galveston, Texas).

BROWNSVILLE. The two-story Vintionett block was completed this week and the two 2-story structures being constructed by V.L. Crixell and R. L. Sanchez respectively, are fast nearing completion. Brownsville's business center is showing considerable activity and it is said several other substantial structures are planned to be constructed before the end of the year

1911 Sat Jun [ ]. BH.

A Bunch of Misfortunes

For downright hard luck, Alderman Teofilo Crixell believes he should be awarded first prize, a Carnegie medal, or something of that sort. His ill luck dates from Wednesday, when he was obliged to pay a note for \$75, which he had endorsed for a friend, the friend giving him as value received two horses. On Thursday one of the horses died. Soon after, the other went lame. Yesterday, one of Mr. Crixell's fine team of mules kicked up its heels and took a passage to mule heaven.

1911 Wed Jun 21. BH.

ATTEMPT TO ASSASSINATE CITY MARSHAL CRIXELL. Shot Fired From Ambush as He Was Riding Home Monday Night, But He Escaped Unhurt.

What City Marshal Crixell believes was an attempt to take his life occurred at about 12:20 o'clock Monday night. He was returning to his home in West Brownsville on horseback at that hour. As he was passing along St. Charles street almost directly in the rear of the Works sanitarium, a shot was fired from a Winchester by some hidden person, which M. Crixell believes was intended for him. He reports that the shot was fired within twenty-five feet of him, and the would-be assassin was probably concealed in the rear of the sanitarium. The report frightened Mr. Crixell's horse, which turned about quickly, almost unseating its rider and made a dash down St. Charles street toward town. As quickly as he could, Marshal Crixell says, he got the animal under control and dismounted, thinking to go back and investigate the matter, but on second thought, decided to come to town and get help which he did. Returning to the spot with some of the police, he made a thorough search of the vicinity but nothing was discovered.

Marshal Crixell fully believes that an attempt was made on his life and feels that he was very fortunate to escape unhurt. A Mexican family, according to Mr. Crixell, said yesterday they saw a man making toward the river from the vicinity soon after the shot was fired.

1911 Fri Jun 23. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Tracks on Twelfth St Removed by Order of Mayor of the City - Marshal Crixell Leads the Laborers and Gives Instructions

As soon as the signal was given a few minutes past midnight, 227 men hurried to the Market Plaza and were ordered to remove the track. The track that extended from the Rio Grande RR station at the end of town from Twelfth St to the edge of the river had once been used to carry freight to and from Matamoros but in recent years had been used to haul wood only.

1911 Wed Jun 28. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

City Marshal states he has no additional space for prisoners in city jail and request that dangerous prisoners be transferred to county jail. The request is granted.

1911 Mon Jul 3. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Harry Wallace (Wallis) former deputy constable was arrested by city police for carrying a concealed weapon. City Recorder Ira Webster dismissed the case because it was without jurisdiction. Defendant should have been turned over to county officers.

1911 Tue Jul 4. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Cameron County Prohibitionist Organize Executive Committee for Election Purposes - Alderman blackshear and J. T. Canales among them. Canales considers saloon in its "present and unrestricted form a menace to our institutions, our homes, our government..." A bill compelling saloons to close at sundown and preventing saloons from contributing to campaign fund was vetoed by Governor Colquitt. There was already a law forbidding corporations from contributing to campaign funds.

1911 Fri Jul 14. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Saloons Are Closed in Matamoros - Marshal Crixell request that soldiers not be allowed to cross with arms into Brownsville. Soldiers leave guns on Mexican side to visit Brownsville saloons. Prohibitionist movement picks up speed at this time.

1911 Fri Jul 21. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Grand Jury Wants Saloons Abolished - Declares Liquor Causes 75 Percent of Crimes - (story from Dallas)

1911 Mon Jul 24. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Prohibition Defeated by a Narrow Majority - Close Shave for the Saloon

1911 Wed Aug 9. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Former police officer Ignacio Trevino and Mariano Navarreta of San Benito arrested for altercation in saloon.

1911 Tue Aug 15. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Petition for New County Courthouse.

1911 Thu Aug 17. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Jesus Trevino shoots Jesus Martinez at White Elephant Saloon and is placed under a \$2000 bond. Trevino was able to furnish bail. City officers and Sheriff Haley were witness to the shooting.

1911 Fri Aug 18. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Fatally Shot by Deputy Constable - Jesus Martinez Dies of Wound inflicted by Jesus Trevino - Shooting Occurred in Saloon Claimed to Have Been Accidental but Martinez' Dying Statement Claims it was Intentional.

Jesus Trevino was a former city policeman but now a deputy constable.

1911 Tue Aug 22. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

City Marshal Ordered to Clean Streets and Alleys so that oiling of the streets can be done by the Brownsville Civic League.

1911 Thu Aug 24. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Wanted - 50 Members for Chamber of Commerce.

1911 Thu Aug 31. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Bank Saloon will relocate from 12<sup>th</sup> St to Dennet building on north side of Elizabeth between 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Streets. E. W. Hill buys out partner L. E. Bronough.

1911 Sat Sep 23. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

"San Carlos Mescal at Crixell's Saloon" advert

1911 Tue Sep 26. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Marshal Crixell issued orders that all horses left tied upon the street after 12 o'clock be taken to the pound.

1911 Mon Oct 2. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Vicente Crixell breaks leg while playing bolichi (bowling) in Matamoros.

1911 Tue Oct 11. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Teofilo Crixell and Tomas Cortez pay \$200 bond for release of Paulino Preciado, publisher of semi-weekly periodical El Parvenir after complaint by Carlos Bouis.

1911 Thu Oct 12. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Crixell arrests two men in connection with train robbery but they are released for lack of sufficient evidence from county jail.

1911 Sat Oct 14. BH.

ACCIDENTALLY SHOT BY DUCK HUNTERS. Mexican Boy Catches Bullet Intended for Birds, But Fortunately Is Not Very Seriously Wounded.

While Emilio Crixell and Louis Laulom were duck shooting on the Resaca Thursday one of them accidentally shot a Mexican boy who was working in a field a short distance away. Both Mr. Crixell and Mr. Laulom fired several shots at the ducks and it is thought by both parties that Mr. Crixell fired the unlucky shot. The bullet struck the boy in the right thigh, inflicting a slight flesh wound. The boy was brought to town yesterday morning and the ball extracted by Dr. H. K. Leow. The wound is not very serious, and Dr. Loew said last night, that the boy would recover.

1911 Thu Oct 19. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Captain Monroe Fox and his men arrive in Brownsville enroute to Sam Fordyce and Rio Grande City with deputy rangers Pat Craighead, Dick Morris, Charles Price, Joe Stanford, J. C. Nunnery, and McGulle Oyvardes [sp?] of Company C, Texas Rangers.

No arrests made.

1911 Wed Oct 25. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Witness Exchanges Story in Telling of Killing - Now Says He Was Present When Joe Lopez Was Shot and That It Was an Accident

1911 Thu Oct 26. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Court site and Jail proposal

1911 Tue Nov 3. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Herald calls for change in city government; to include city manager.

1911 Mon Nov 13. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Crixell aids homeless man in finding family member in Chicago.

1911 Wed Nov 15. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Anonymous letter reached Judge Hopkins of district court alleging laws against gambling and liquor trafficking are being broken with the knowledge of city and county officials. It call attention to a recent raid of a "reputed gambling house" where officers were lax in handling the case and adds that certain officers were taking bribes. It also complains that beer dens are illegally licensed to Mexicans in the city.

Sheriff C. T. Ryan and City Marshal J. L. Crixell both publish letters refuting accusations by anonymous author. Crixell offers a \$500 reward to the accuser if he can prove that his brother Teofilo is running an illegal gambling house.

V. L. Crixell places \$500 REWARD ad for anyone who can prove he is operating a gambling house in Brownsville or Matamoros. Ads appear for days after.

1911 Thu Nov 16. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Blue Club celebrates its 38<sup>th</sup> anniversary (Veteran Mexican Democratic Organization) The Club Mexico-Texana. Judge J. B. Wells, honorary president; L. H. Bates, V. president; John Champion, president and others listed by name.

1911 Mon Nov 20. BH.

\$500 REWARD.

\$500.00 reward will be paid to any person furnishing evidence proving that I am in any way connected with any gambling house in Brownsville or Matamoros. This advertisement is placed for the benefit of the person or persons who are reputed to have written an anonymous letter to the District Court of Cameron County. (Signed) V. L. CRIXELL.

1911 Mon Nov 20. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Crixell hosts dinner for Mexican dignitaries. Marshal Crixell arrests man for trying to sell him lottery tickets.

1911 Wed Nov 29. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Jesus Trevino found not guilty of murdering Jesus Martinez.

1911 Mon Dec 4. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Officers Trevino and Gomez arrest four men near the rice mill for being in possession of a pistol and Winchester rifle. No arrests made in city; not even a "drunk".

1911 Thu Dec 7. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Rifles and Ammunition Found Under Houses - Seizure of Small Armament near Rice Mill in this City - Probably Property of Reyistas. No arrests made.

1911 Fri Dec 8. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Shooting death at Magnolia saloon near Indiana canal plant.

1911 Mon Dec 11. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Court plans have been chosen.

1911 Thu Dec 14. BH.

Borrow Horses Without Ceremony.

V. L. Crixell and J. Cortez are of the opinion that some one is forming the habit of borrowing horses for the purpose of taking night rides. Early yesterday morning when Mr. Cortez' son who delivers papers for The Herald, went to get his horse, he found the animal missing. The boy immediately went to Mr. Crixell to borrow his horse, and it was

also found to be missing. Later Mr. Cortez' horse returned to his home bearing the marks of a hard night under the saddle. Mr. Crixell is still looking for his steed.

1911 Wed Dec 20. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

No arrests made for past two nights

1911 Tue Dec 26. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Rangers Paul McAllister and [?] Mercer shoot Ramos Zapata in Harlingen.

1911 Fri Dec 29. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Attempt to murder Antonio Echazarreta by three men.

1911 Sat Dec 30. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

T. de los Santos arrested for writing obscene letter to sheriff deputy Domingo Rocha for being a participant in shooting of drunken Mexican.

Antonio Echazarreta surrenders himself to Matamoros police where he was wanted.

1912 Mon Jan 8. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Boy Badly Wounded in Gambling Raid - three officers shot thirteen year-old boy during raid in which thirteen men were arrested in blacksmith shop in rice mill. Boy had three wounds. Deputy Sheriff Joe Longoria, Customs Inspector F. Tate and Mac Jester of the Rangers were the officers. The place had become a gambling site on Saturday for Mexican laborers. The boy died.

1912 Thu Jan 11. BH.

CITY MARSHALL DENIES GONZALES' STATEMENT. Declares Latter Did Not Draw Pay from City While Assisting in Neutrality.

Jan. 8th, 1912.

[To] Editor of Herald, Brownsville, Texas

Dear Sir: In your issue of January 8, 1912, under your report of evidence adduced at the trial, in the Federal Court, of those accused of violations of the neutrality laws, appears a statement to the effect that Ruperto Gonzales, a special policeman, who has been active in behalf of the government in the case, was drawing a salary of \$25.00 a month. The inference to be gathered from your article was that I, as city marshall, have authorized the payment of city funds to assist in preventing violations of the Neutrality Laws. I desire to say, and that most positively and emphatically, that not a cent of city money has been paid, directly or indirectly, to Ruperto Gonzales, for any purpose. The police pay rolls are open to examination by any one, and will bear me out in this statement. For my own part, I desire to say that I have done my best, as an official, to prevent violations of the neutrality laws of this country, following the expressed will, and the example of the national authorities, and of Governor Colquitt of this state who, as it is well known, employed at the expense of the national government, a large additional force of state rangers for similar purposes. I have co-operated with the federal and state authorities in

this matter, as I conceived it my duty to do, but I desire it distinctly understood that not one cent of city money has been sent directly or indirectly as I said before. In this connection, I respectfully ask that you publish this communication, in order that any wrong impression which may have unintentionally has been created by your former article may be corrected.

Very truly yours, J. L. Crixell, City Marshall

[BH:] Editor's Note: – The inference, if any is to be drawn, must not be credited to the Herald's report of the evidence of the witness, Ruperto Gonzales, which was a correct rendering of the proceedings, but to the testimony of the said witness. The official record of the cross-examination of that witness by Marshall Hicks confirms absolutely the Herald's report that he testified to the offer of a job from Marshal Crixell in return for certain services and that he was appointed a supernumerary on the city police force about Dec. 10th last at a salary of \$25 per month. Mr. Hicks himself, confirms the accuracy of The Herald's report and Mr. Wolters gave proof that he had understood the Gonzales testimony in the same meaning by using the testimony as printed in his summing up speech.

[Same date] \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Blue Club Celebration of 38<sup>th</sup> Anniversary - Over 600 Attended Function at Opera House Monday [Jan 8] When Newly Elected Officers Were Installed.

Blue Club was joined by the Young Men's Democraic Club. March began from Blue Club quarters on 13<sup>th</sup> St to Opera House.

[Same date] Mexican counterfeit dollars discovered by J. Crixell at Mid-Winter Fair.

1912 Fri Jan 12. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Deputy sheriff Jose Longoria and Ranger Milton West are arrested over the shooting of thirteen year-old Eduardo Garcia. Arresting Officers stated they were fired upon by someone on the platform as they were about to make arrest. Bond was set at \$1000.

1912 Mon Jan 29. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Ranger Forces Cut in Two - Captain Fox Notified of Reduction of Force on the Border:

Captain Monroe Fox's Company C stationed along the border from Brownsville to Sam For-dyce an Rio Grande City was told to cut seven of his fourteen men from his unit.

1912 Wed Jan 31. The Galveston Daily News (Galveston, Texas).

Seven Rangers Released

BROWNSVILLE, Tex., Jan 30. In compliance with the order recently issued by Adjutant General Hutchings, Captain Monroe Fox of Company C, state rangers, stationed here, today discharged seven of the fourteen men of his command effective Feb. 1. The men released are Paul McAllister, Ira Owens, Milton West, H. C. Trollinger, Charley Price, Miguel Oyervidis and James Nunnery.

1912 Thu Feb 1. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Tax Collector's Store Burned - Believed Store Was First Robbed Then Set on Fire

Macedonio Garcia is the tax collector.

[Same date] Mayor Kowalski announced his candidacy for additional term as mayor.

[Same date] BH.

OFFICERS IN DIFFICULTY IN A LOCAL SALOON. Deputy Sheriff Disarmed Special Policeman. Threatening Situation Ensued But Was Quieted by a Ranger.

A difficulty which came near resulting in a shooting occurred last night about 10:30 o'clock in the Club bar, when Deputy Sheriff P. D. Haley disarmed V. L. Crixell. Mr. Crixell claimed that he had a commission as special officer and therefore was permitted to carry weapons, but handed his pistol over to Mr. Haley on the latter's request. The bystanders began to take sides, and for a short time the situation looked threatening. Several of the police officers took sides with their chief, while Deputy Sheriff Jose Longoria sided with Mr. Haley. Ranger Mac Jester finally succeeded to quieting the trouble. City Marshal Joe Crixell later stated to a Herald representative that V. L. Crixell holds a commission as a special policeman, and is entitled to carry a pistol.

1912 Fri Feb 2. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

J. L. Crixell charged with assault upon Adolfo Pecina. William Crafts filed complaint against Crixell in the city court. The defendant informed the court he was charged with same offense in corporation court and the case was dismissed. Crixell had been charged with striking Pecina in the face in front of the city tax assessor and collector's office.

1912 Mon Feb 5. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Officer Joaquin Trevino resigns from police force.

Patrol of Border No Longer Needed - Capt. Fox's Entire Company (seven men) Here (in Brownsville) Till Further Orders - Captain Gives Notice to Gun Toters (state, city or county police)

[Same date] BH.

IMPORTANT RULING ON SPECIAL POLICEMEN. Judge Bartlett Excuses V. L. Crixell on Charge of Carrying Pistol But Holds Commission Invalid.

In the case of the State vs. V. L. Crixell, charged with carrying a pistol, Mr. Crixell was excused from responsibility in the county court Saturday, but his commission as special supernumerary officer was held illegal. Judge Bartlett interpreted the law to read that police officers must have their commissions signed by order of the city council and not by the marshal, or by the mayor. The court further ruled that, unless an officer is actively performing the duties of an officer he is not authorized to carry a pistol. In speaking of the ruling to a Herald reporter, Judge Bartlett said that, in the case of a special officer, his commission expires as soon as the duty for which he had been deputized has been performed, and that in the case of a supernumerary, or substitute policeman, he is only allowed to carry a pistol while performing the duties of a regular officer.

[Same date, advert] For Your Health Sake [sic] Always Drink "PEARL" BEER

"WE MADE IT SO GOOD IT MADE ITSELF FAMOUS" PEARL BEER IS A MILD BEVERAGE MADE FROM THE CHOICEST MATERIALS, BY MEN WHO KNOW HOW. IT IS THOROUGHLY AGED AND THE EQUAL OF ANY BEER BREWED -

IT IS A WONDERFUL TONIC AND WILL PROVE BENEFICIAL TO THE ENTIRE FAMILY DURING THESE hel [sic] days – try it in your home with your lunch or dinner, it will make the meal taste better. Who Can Beat It? Brewed and Bottled by SAN ANTONIO BREWING ASSOCIATION. HAVE A CASE SENT HOME. V. L. CRIXELL, Local Agent  
No orders solicited or accepted in violation of Texas liquor laws.

1912 Tue Feb 6. BH.

As to Special Police Appointments.

City Marshal J. L. Crixell had a letter from R. B. Creager read in reference to the decision of Judge Barlett in the case of the State vs. V. L. Crixell, as appeared in Monday morning's Herald. The letter is as follows:

Feb. 5, 1912. [To] Mr. Joseph L. Crixell, City Marshal of the City of Brownsville, Brownsville, Texas.

Dear Sir: – Complying with your request that I give you my opinion as to the right of a city marshal and of the mayor of an incorporated city or town, with reference to the appointment of policemen, I have carefully investigated the law upon the subject and find that Art. 402 of the Civil Statutes (Sayles) gives to the mayor full authority, whenever he deems it necessary "In order to enforce the laws of the city, or to avert danger, or to protect life or property in case of riot or any outbreak or calamity, or public disturbance or when he has reason to fear any serious violation of the law or order, or any outbreak, or any other danger to said city or the inhabitants thereof," to appoint special police. There is no limitation as to the number that he may appoint, or as to the length of time he may keep them on duty. The city marshal, under Art. 407, is given the authority to appoint "one or more" deputies. Under the law of this State the city council also has the right to appoint watchmen and policemen, and to create, establish and regulate the police of the city. The right given by the statute to the city council, however, does not conflict with the rights given respectively to the mayor and city marshal. It is unquestionably the law in this state, that the city marshal has the legal right to name one or more deputies, and the mayor to name special policemen. Very truly yours, R. B. CREAGER.

Mr. Crixell and Mayor Kowalski both informed the council that it was not possible for either the mayor or the marshal to make public the name of every officer on duty, as in a case that is now before the marshal in the investigation of certain charges of arson. Alderman Cobolini said that, while he was willing for the marshal to have all the men he needed, he thought, for financial reasons the council should know about the appointment of officers as a business proposition. The marshal informed the aldermen that if he were not going to be allowed to protect the citizens of the city without calling a meeting of the council, he would resign. Mr. Cobolini maintained that the council should know whether or not the officers were appointed before such large bills for special officers were submitted to the council. The mayor informed the assembly that one reason of such large expenses for special officers was the guarding of the sugar-cane cars which had cost the city \$90, and the owners of the cane or the railway company nothing during the past three months.

1912 Fri Feb 9. BH.

A BULLET FIRED AT LONG RANGE. WOUNDS ANTONIO CANTU AT HIS HOME IN TOWN. Evidently from High Power Rifle Though Not Yet Traced – Wound in Arm and Breast – Will be Extracted Today.

Yesterday evening at 6:30 o'clock Antonio Cantu, a 17-year-old hack driver, was shot in the arm and breast by [Ed., not known?] and in the opinion of City Marshal Crixell, innocent party.

...

1912 Wed Feb 28. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Fall of Juarez Gives Rebels Opening for Receiving Arms - Madero Thinks Occupation at Juarez Not Significant.

1912 Mon Mar 4. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Democrats launch campaign and Louis Cobolini will run for mayor against B. Kowalski. L. H. Bate will run for City Marshal. Adolfo Pecina will run for City Secretary. Pecina is also involved in organizing volunteer fire brigade.

1912 Wed Mar 13. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Independents choose A. B. Cole as mayoral candidate.

1912 Mon Mar 18. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Herald predicts race for mayor will draw more votes for Cobolini if Independent vote is split between Kowalski and Cole.

[Same date] Wells and others smear Creagar with allegations of laws broken by customs department - allegations reach Taft's office.

1912 Mon Mar 25. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Campaign rallies of Reds and Blues.

1912 Fri Mar 29. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Name of Andres Uresti appears on official ballot. He will run against J. L. Crixell [for City Marshal]. The "old" Red Club seems split.

1912 Sat Mar 30. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Mateo Gomez, a police officer, is charged with issuing a challenge to fight a duel against Camilo Garza in front of Justo Paredes's saloon. George Champion Jr. disarmed Gomez. His bond for \$250 was paid by V. L. Crixell and Miguel Garcia.

1912 Mon Apr 1. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

During the last day of campaigning Captain Sanders and three Rangers arrive in Brownsville but elude questions as to their purpose of coming. Rangers are Sergeant M. Hines, A. R. Baker and R. Hawkins.

[Same date] Making a speech at the Blue Club Dr. E. S. McCain states that "the most

important issue of the campaign was whether the affairs of the city government should be administered from the City Hall or the White Elephant saloon.” Adolfo Pecina translated the speech to the mostly Spanish speaking audience.

1912 Tue Apr 2. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

City Council is Enjoined - Judge Hopkins Changes Order of Official Ballot - On Petition of Andres Uresti - All candidates Not Party Nominees Must Go in Independent Column ... (see The Reason for Injunction, other article same date.

[Same date] Crixell authorized to appoint twelve officers for elections.

[Same date] William Crafts arrested by Deputy Sheriff Mac Jester after Crafts argued with C. Magnum and struck him. Crafts was released on \$25 bond signed by V. L. Crixell and Henry Haines.

1912 Wed Apr 3. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Independents Winners by Narrow Majority - A. B. Cole beats Louis Cobolini by Four Votes - Closest Results Ever Known in City Election - Elect All Independent Candidates Except City Attorney and Two Aldermen: Joseph Crixell 699 to L. H. Bates 695 and Andres Uresti's 6 votes.

1912 Fri Apr 5. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Rangers leave after election results - past election results contested.

1912 Mon Apr 8. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Mayor Kowalski feels he should still be mayor until Cole matter is cleared.

[Same date] Creagar's Denial of the Charges - Letters to Secretary McVeigh on Pernicious Charges - Copies of Official Correspondence Growing Out of Telegrams Sent by Prominent Democrats Making Charges Against Customs Official.

1912 Tue Apr 9. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

There are two mayors.

1912 Wed Apr 10. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Kowalski is ex-mayor.

1912 Sat Apr 13. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Andres Uresti Badly Wounded - Mysterious Shooting Affray at Rudolfo's Saloon - City Marshal and Several Member of the Police Force Detained at the County Bastile - Uresti Wounded in Several Places.

Other police arrested for the shooting in the eastern part of town were Ignacio Trevino, Jesus Trevino, Juan Garcia and Willie Crafts. Deputies Haley and Longoria rushed to the site where they heard the shots.

[Same date] The Waco Morning News (Waco, Texas).

BROWNSVILLE MARSHAL [sic, read "candidate"] IS FATALLY WOUNDED [Ed.,

factual error of death; cf., 1912 Apr 15, 1912 Apr 17, 1912 Apr 24, 1917 Mar 2].

Andres Uresti, who was a candidate for marshal in the last election, was fatally [sic] wounded at midnight here. Marshal J. L. Crixell and four other members of the city police were arrested and are in jail on the charge of being implicated in the shooting. Uresti was shot eleven times.

1912 Mon Apr 15. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

City Council Acts in Police Matter - Charge That Prisoners Were Held 'Incommunicado' - Jim Dwyer Made City Marshal and Ten Special Policemen Appointed. Committee of Citizens to see That Prisoners Have Right to Counsel.

Mayor A. B. Cole called a special meeting to see that officers appointed with advice from council to replace those held in jail. Alderman Teofilo Crixell stated he employed attorneys for defense of some men but they were refused admittance to the jail. Dr. Loew had been informed by V. L. Crixell that J. Crixell was in the jail and asked him to see his brother but was refused admittance. T. Crixell hired R. B. Rentfro, R. E. Holland and J. T. Canales to defend. Arrested were J. Crixell, W. Crafts, Mateo Gomez, Ygnacio Trevino, J. D. Puig, Lt. Joaquin Trevino and Victoriano Fernandez.

[Same date] \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Herald editor writes: "Partisan politics carried to the extreme has brought this state of affairs upon us."

[Same date] \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Statement by Uresti: "I went out to talk to Juan Garcia. Joaquin Trevino fired at me first one shot, afterwards Juan Garcia also fired at me. After I was down Juan Garcia struck me on the head with a pistol. This was after I was down. There was no reason whatever. I remember having fired two shots. I just fired. Mateo Gomez also fired at me." That night Uresti had been with Deputy Sheriff Nathan Lightburn who was arrested at the Paredes Saloon on charges of intoxication. P. D. Haley heard about arrest and was on his way to the jail when he heard the shooting. (Missing part of article.) Juan Garcia whose duty it was to patrol neighborhood near Justo Paredes saloon, escaped to Mexico after being seriously implicated in shooting. He contacted V. L. Crixell to state he would turn himself in once things cooled down. R. E. Holland was admitted to see prisoners but not without presence of jailers. Uresti had three bullet wounds through the muscles of the right arm, a bullet wound below the left temple, and the top of the head caused by a blunt instrument. He also had powder burns on his face.

1912 Tue Apr 16. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

City Fathers Hear Committee Report - Treatment of City Police by County Officials - Denounced as Disgraceful by Committee - Seventeen Policemen Appointed.

1912 Wed Apr 17. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Uresti reported to be improving and taking nourishment although he received wound to throat.

[Same date] Grand Jury called in to investigate. Among the laws requiring investigation

are those "regulating the liquor traffic, gaming and pistol carrying."

1912 Thu Apr 18. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

J. L. Crixell resumed duty as police chief. J. M. Dwyer appointed as deputy marshal.

[Same date] Statement by City Marshal Crixell - In Explanation of His Connection with Shooting of Andres Uresti.

(Herald edits persons named by Crixell.) Crixell stated that Juan Garcia reported that three officers and others were creating a disturbance at Paredes Saloon and had attempted to quarrel with him. Crixell summoned Crafts and Ygnacio Trevino and was endeavoring to search a man who he believed had a pistol and was prevented by Lightburn from doing so. Lightburn was instructed to desist but refused and was arrested by Crafts and Trevino for "interfering." Crixell invited Uresti to have a beer and Garcia and Uresti began quarreling over the incident. Crixell stopped the discussion and Crafts and Y. Trevino returned ten or fifteen minutes later. They went to the Market Square while Crixell talked with two friends in front of the Herald building. Charles Combe, Jas. A. Browne and Deputy Sheriff Paul McAllister came up to Crixell asking that he release Lightburn. He left walking toward Dittman theatre and soon after shots were heard. He went in a hack and met another hack with Pat Haley, Buster Jones and Uresti who was wounded. Joaquin Trevino told Crixell that Uresti started the trouble. Crixell was told by Uresti in jail that he had been shot by Joaquin Trevino, Juan Garcia and Mateo Gomez. As Crixell was leaving jail he was arrested without warrant or explanation and not permitted to see an attorney. Crixell also stated that a conspiracy to murder Uresti was untrue.

1912 Sat Apr 20. Victoria Advocate (Victoria, Texas).

Victim of Shooting Well Known here.

Andres Uresti, the defeated independent candidate for city marshal of Brownsville, who was shot at Brownsville Saturday, formerly resided at Spring Creek, this county, and is well known here. His successful opponent, Jose Crixell, who, together with several other Brownsville policemen, is charged with the shooting, is also well known in Victoria. Two of his children are attending school here. Newspaper reports stated that Uresti's injuries were not dangerous, but it is rumored in this city today that he is dead [Ed., untrue rumor].

1912 Wed Apr 24. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Uresti reported to be rapidly recovering.

1912 Tue Apr 30. \*\*\*JRG\*\*\*

Police officer Manuel Vasquez was cut several times in the abdomen after he tried to arrest Juan Rabago, a barber, for public intoxication at the Vivier Opera house.

1912 Tue May 14. Policeman Victoriano Fernandez was accidentally shot by officer Pedro Saldana after the two engaged in horseplay at the White Elephant saloon. His father was V. Fernandez Sr.

[Ed., this/above is the final note by JRG.]

1912 Wed May 22. The Daily Advocate (Victoria, Texas).

ACCUSE BROWNSVILLE CITIZENS. Warrants Served as Outcome of Recent City Elections.

Several of Brownsville's most prominent citizens were today served with warrants by Sheriff Ryan. ... Those indicted are: ...J. L. Crixell, city marshal; R. B. Creager, collector of customs; [Ed., three and several others] ...including Will Crafts, ex-city policeman. ... Warrants were also served on election judges for alleged failure to require proper affidavits where poll tax receipts had been lost. Bonds of \$200 were required and furnished by all of those indicted.

1912 Mon Jul 15. BH.

FRANK RABB IS WELCOMED HOME.

... Mr. Rutledge spoke in favor of team work in local politics and hoped that the factions in city politics would come to a better understanding. He said he had been born a democrat, and had never and would never scratch any democratic ticket. In closing, he said, "Why let little differences keep us apart? Let's all go in together and win." V. Crixell spoke along lines concerning local politics. He said, among other things, that he had always been a democrat and never votes anything but the democratic ticket. ...

1912 Sat Aug 10. BH.

MARSHALL CRIXELL SHOT TO DEATH BY DEPUTY SHERIFF. DIES ALMOST INSTANTLY FROM EFFECT OF WOUNDS. SLAYER PAUL M'ALISTER. Shooting Occurred on Elizabeth Street at 9:45 O'clock Last Night in Vicinity of Many People.

Chief of Police Joe L. Crixell was shot and killed almost instantly, on Elizabeth street, between 12th and 13th, last night at a quarter of ten, by Deputy Sheriff Paul McAllister. The deputy was arrested at once by Ranger Captain J. Fox and taken to jail. The chief had just ridden in from his usual nightly round of the town, dismounting in front of T. Crixell's saloon. McAllister was seated a short distance away in front of the Club saloon, just outside the curb and facing the saloon. Crixell walked towards the Club saloon shortly after dismounting. When he was within about five feet of McAllister the shooting occurred. An automatic forty-five calibre pistol was used. Six shots were fired, each of them striking Crixell. He fell just outside the curb immediately and died within ten minutes without speaking. Assistance reached the chief almost immediately, but he expired before he could be moved from the ground. It was found on examination that one shot had entered the right side of the neck, one the right side of the chest, one the left side of the chest, one went into the abdomen, first passing through the man's right hand, one in the right shoulder, and one in the right side, near the waist line. The wound through the hand was apparently by the bullet which entered the abdomen, which is explained by the fact that it was Mr. Crixell's habit to stand with his thumb inserted in his belt, allowing a hand to hang over his abdomen. The street was very quiet at the time and

there were few pedestrians on the side of the street where the shooting occurred. Less than a block away, however, a crowd of perhaps two hundred was gathered, listening to a band which was playing on the roof of the Miller hotel. When the shots rang out with such suddenness and rapidity, all began running in an opposite direction. Justice of the Peace Phil P. Barbour and Dr. W. N. Sphon reached the spot among the very first. Mr Barbour, together with Deputy Marshal J. J. Dwyer extracted Mr. Crixell's pistol from the holster and examined it. Every chamber was filled. So far as learned no words preceded the shooting. An ambulance was called and the body removed to the undertaking establishment of Burt E. Hinkley, where it remained last night. Surviving Mr. Crixell are a wife and four children. He also leaves [Ed., illegible]. ...attention at that time, but looked across the street later and saw him standing on the sidewalk, on the opposite side of the street, talking to a man on horseback. [Ed., statement by Ranger Captain J. Fox?] "Paul McAllister was sitting in a chair in the gutter in front of the Club bar, just across the street from where I was. Within a few seconds I heard the shots, four in succession, then a pause and then two more. I rushed across the street. Crixell was in the gutter. McAllister was the only man that did any shooting. I arrested and disarmed him, and took him to jail, leaving instructions that no one be permitted to see him. He made no statement of any kind. So far as I know, there was not a word passed between the two men." A report was prevalent last night that McAllister had not been placed in jail. This was not true. Captain Fox took the prisoner to jail at once. Deputy Marshal Dwyer informed the Herald reporter that he saw McAllister in the jail shortly after the arrest. An examination of the wounds was made by Dr. J. L. Rentfro at the undertaker's this morning. It disclosed the fact that there were fourteen wounds on the body. Six were in the front — one just above the navel, one in the center of the chest, one above right breast, one directly in front of right arm pit, one four inches below the right nipple, one at base of neck, two in hand. The others were in the back — one in the right shoulder blade, two in right of spinal column about ten inches above the waist line, one in lower part of right loin. Three bullets were taken from the body.

[Same date. Ed., Page 2, Advertisement, stork delivering beer:] "Our new Texas Pride Brings Happiness to the Entire Family. San Antonio Brewing Assn San Antonio, Texas. T. Crixell, Sole Dealer, Brownsville."

1912 Sun Aug 11. The Galveston Daily News (Galveston, Texas).

FUNERAL OF CHIEF CRIXELL. Large Cortège Follows Remains of Police Official, Killed in Brownsville, to the Grave.

BROWNSVILLE, Tex. Aug. 10. The funeral of Chief of Police Joe L. Crixell, who was shot and killed on the main street here last night, was held today. It was probably one of the largest processions ever taking part in a funeral in this city. Fully one thousand people followed the hearse on foot and there were about eighty carriages. Deputy Sheriff Paul McAllister, who was arrested on account of the shooting, was taken to Corpus Christi this morning by Deputy Sheriffs Cathey and Mercer and Ranger Captain J. M. Fox. This was done, it is said, to quiet the people. McAllister will probably be returned here within a week for the examining trial.

1912 Mon Sep 2. The Daily Advocate (Victoria, Texas).

McAllister is Remanded to Jail.

BROWNSVILLE, Tex. – The arraignment trial of Paul McAllister, who is charged with the killing of City Marshal Crixell, which has consumed three days, was finished this morning, the defendant failing to get release on bond and was remanded back to jail. Habeas corpus proceedings will be instituted before District Judge Hopkins at the September term of court.

1912 Fri Sep 6. BH.

PERSONALS.

Teofilo Crixell and V. Crixell returned last night from Corpus Christi, where they went Tuesday to attend the habeas corpus hearing of Paul McAllister.

Returned to Brownsville –

Paul McAllister, who failed to obtain bond through habeas corpus proceedings before Judge W. B. Hopkins at Corpus Christi, returned to Brownsville yesterday, accompanied by Deputy Sheriff Pat Haley. He will be kept in the Cameron county jail. It is thought that Mr. McAllister will carry the matter to the higher courts of the state.

1912 Fri Sep 13. BH.

Mrs. Eliza Crixell returned to her home in Corpus Christi yesterday. Mrs. Crixell has been visiting the families of her sons, Teofilo, Vicente and Louis Crixell, the past six weeks.

1912 Mon Nov 4. BH.

WOODMEN OF WORLD UNVEIL MONUMENTS. Impressive Ceremonies at Graves of Jos. L. Crixell and Jose T. Pecina by Two Local Lodges.

Amid the impressive ceremonies of the lodges of which the deceased was a member, the monument to the late Joseph L. Crixell was unveiled yesterday afternoon. The monument, eight feet high, is the style commonly erected to the memory of deceased members of the Woodmen of the World, but larger. The grave was decorated by hundreds of wreaths and floral offerings. Forming in line at Levee and 12th streets, members of the W. O. W. and Obreros lodges, lead by the Obreros band and followed by a cordon of mounted police, marched to the cemetery. In the parade were a large number of citizens from Matamoros, friends of Mr. Crixell, also several members of the police force of that city. The line of march and arrangements for the unveiling were in charge of J. P. Reyes of the Burks company. All the members of the W. O. W. as well as the band, were dressed in white suits, the summer marching uniform of the order. The space immediately surrounding the grave was roped off to accommodate the members of the family of Mr. Crixell, the lodge members and invited guests. The enclosure was soon crowded to the utmost capacity, but the ceremony was carried out without unnecessary delay. Beside solemn and impressive music by the band, there was singing of Spanish hymns by male and female voices. Probably a thousand persons were present to witness the ceremony attending the unveiling of the monument. Following the unveiling of the

Crixell monument, the lodges repaired to the grave of Jose T. Pecina, who was also a member of the same order, and to whose memory they also unveiled a monument. Mr. Pecina died last February. This monument was also erected by the Woodmen of the World, and ceremonies similar to those held at the grave of Mr. Crixell were enacted at Mr. Pecina's grave.

1912 Thu Dec 19. BH.

#### CHANGE OF VENUE.

The case of Paul McAllister, charged by indictment with shooting and killing Joe L. Crixell, chief of police, on the night of August 9, was called in the district court yesterday. McAllister pleaded not guilty. Judge Hopkins thereupon [Ed., illegible] a change of venue to the Twenty-fifth Judicial district, and the case will be tried at Hallettsville, Lavaca county. Judge M. Kenon is the district judge, and Lester Holt district attorney in that district.

[1943 Sun Oct 17.] BH.

From Pulpit to Deputy Sheriff Is Story of Local Man; Recalls Killing Of Friend.

By Clarence Laroche.

J. M. Perry is one of those refreshing young old men of the West who insists on standing on his own two legs and taking a few well-directed cuts at the world. Mr. Perry took his first few cuts at the world from the pulpit. He was Rev. Perry then and extolled the gospel throughout the West and Southwest for John Wesley and the Methodist Church. He held down the local Methodist chair in Brownsville during 1912 and 1913. "I left Brownsville the latter part of 1913 for a call in Northwest Texas," he reminisced recently. "Now I'm back again in the old haunts." Twenty-six years after leaving the far from God-fearing frontier town of Brownsville, Rev. Perry — now plain Mister Perry — returned to make his home here. The pastorate of John Wesley was well-established and the town as a whole had quieted down considerably.

#### A Deputy Now

Like a rare Havana cigar, deputy sheriff Perry — yep, he's on Sheriff Tawm Morrison's office force — waxes mellow after he lights up. If you don't have your own brand, he'll give you one of his Chesterfields. "Brownsville was quite a town in those days; yes, sir, quite a town," the deputy allows. "One of the most vivid memories I have is the killing of my good friend Joe Crixell, the city marshal. I'll never forget it. I heard the shots and ran out toward the Club Saloon. Joe was on the ground in front of the saloon, apparently dead. I bent down, placed my arm under his head and whispered a few words of encouragement." Joe smiled back. He died a few moments later. The Herald for August 10, 1912 reports: According to backfiles of the paper, the shooting of the marshal was the culmination of a long-smoldering feud between the police department and the sheriff's office. Judge Herbert Davenport, local historian, verifies this indication. "I remember the night Crixell was killed," Davenport said, "because it was my first night in Brownsville. I had been to Matamoros with a friend and when we came back we saw the crowd of people in front of the saloon and heard that the marshal had been killed." ...

[Ed., no more re: J. L. Crixell.]

1913 Mon Mar 10. BH.

Saloon is Sold –

Teofilo Crixell has disposed of his retail saloon interests to Jno. Simo, who has been in Mr. Crixell's employ as bartender for the past three years. The transfer is pending the issuance of permits to Mr. Simo. Mr. Crixell will devote his entire attention to the wholesale liquor business.

1913 Fri May 30. BH.

Appointed Deputy Constable

William Crafts today was appointed a deputy constable by Constable Faustino Lopez of precinct No. 2.

1913 Sat Jun 7. BH.

CITY NEWS. Saved Two. –

V. L. Crixell was successful yesterday in getting two men turned loose from the prison in Matamoros. These were volunteers in the trenches and were deserted by their officers. They were both Corpus Christi boys one about thirty and the other twenty, well known to Mr. Crixell. One of them left immediately for Corpus, the other is still in Brownsville. They say "never again" for them.

1913 Tue Sep 9. BH.

Enlarges Building

V. L. Crixell owner of the building formerly occupied by the Ellie Confectionary, and located between the Dreamland and the Dittmann theatres, is improving the structure by extending the rear portion to the alley line, about twenty feet. Mr. Crixell expects to occupy the building which has been empty since last winter.

1913 Sat Sep 20. The Galveston Daily News (Galveston, Texas).

AS RESULT OF CLASH, MEMBERS OF POLICE AND SHERIFF FORCES ARE ARRESTED. THREE OTHERS ARE WOUNDED. BROWNSVILLE BATTLE. POLICE OFFICER DEAD. Shooting Result of Alleged Attempt of Policemen to Arrest Sheriff and Others at Resort ...on a charge of discharging firearms within the city limits. Feud of Long Standing.

BROWNSVILLE - A feud of probably two years' standing has existed between the police department and county peace officers stationed in this city. The funeral of Puig was held this afternoon. He was 27 years old and had been lieutenant of police on the Brownsville force a year and a half, having served under Chief of Police J. L. Crixell who was killed a year ago. The dead man was a brother of United States Vice Consul E. J. Puig of Matamoros, Mexico. He was born in San Diego, Tex. where his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Juan Puig, now reside. His wife survives him. ...same old trouble...

1913 Sat Nov 1. BH.

#### PERSONALS

V. Crixell, T. Crixell, Celedonio Garza, M. Alonzo, Jr., Jesus Trevino, Enrique Boturieda, Diario Cortez and Vicente Davila, August 9, witnesses in the case of Paul McAllister, left Friday afternoon to attend the trial at Hallettsville.

1913 Tue Nov 4. BH.

M'ALLISTER CASE MAY END SOON. INDICATIONS ARE THAT TRIAL WILL BE COMPLETED SOONER THAN EXPECTED – ONLY PART OF WITNESSES TO TESTIFY. ENRIQUE BITUREIRA, WHO SAYS HE WAS BEHIND BARBER POLE AT TIME OF SHOOTING, GOOD STATE WITNESS.

Hallettsville, Tex., Nov. 7 – Present indications are that the McAllister case will be ended much sooner than expected. It now appears that a large part of the witnesses summoned will not be used. The witness that so far caused the biggest stir was J. M. Dwyer, lieutenant of police under the deceased J. L. Crixell at the time the latter was killed.

#### DWYER CAREFUL WITNESS

Dwyer was an exceedingly careful witness. On direct examination by Attorney Johnson he told about being in a moving picture show with his wife at the time he heard the shooting. Over the protest of his wife he ran out to the scene of the shooting, a short distance away. He found Crixell in a dying condition with his right hand resting on or about the buckle of his belt, his pistol being in a scabbard in his hip pocket, undisturbed.

#### SAID CRIXELL MADE THREATS

Cross-examined by Attorney Bagby, Dwyer in reply to the first question freely admitted that Crixell had repeatedly in his hearing and in the hearing of others threatened the life of Paul McAllister. He went on to say, in reply to further questioning that a few days before the killing he, Dwyer, had heard Crixell say "I am going to kill that ---- ----- Paul McAllister the first chance I get." The witness also testified that he went to the brother of Crixell and tried to get him to induce "Joe to drop it."

#### STATE TO IMPEACH DWYER

After the conclusion of Dwyer's testimony Attorney Johnson in behalf of the state announced that he would seek to impeach the witness, to which Attorney Bagby for the defense objected. The objection of the defense was overruled.

#### EYE WITNESS TESTIFIES

Enrique Bitureira, a bright young Mexican, was the next witness placed on the stand by the state. His testimony was taken through an interpreter. Bitureira generally confirmed the testimony of H. W. Kraft, the witness who has disappeared, stating that he was within ten feet of McAllister when the first two shots were fired. After that he ran behind a barber pole close by. Bitureira was severely cross examined by Attorney Bagby. The transcript of what witnesses had testified at the examining trial, last year was brought into play once more. The first witness Wednesday was J. W. Davis city engineer of Brownsville, who testified as to the various distances and directions from the scene of the tragedy. A few other witnesses were heard, whereupon the state rested its case Thursday.

## DEFENSE BEGINS

Captain Parker, the second witness for the defense testified to having talked with the deceased, J. L. Crixell, prior to the killing, and that the latter had threatened the life of McAllister about in the same manner indicated by the witness, Dwyer.

## CAPTAIN FOX TESTIFIES

Captain J. M. Fox of the rangers, who were in Brownsville at the time of the shooting, and one of the rangers that arrested Paul McAllister immediately after the shooting, was the third witness placed on the stand by the defense. He was examined by J. W. Ragsdale attorney for McAllister. Fox was in the vicinity at the time of the shooting, but testified that he did not see Enrique Bitureira behind the barber pole at the time. He also testified as to threats that had been made by Crixell against McAllister. Cross-examined by Attorney Johnson, the latter sought to show discrepancies between Fox's testimony at the examining trial, and that at the present trial, especially the part pertaining to the threats.

1913 Thu Nov 6. The Galveston Daily News (Galveston, Texas).

McALLISTER TRIAL IS SLOW. Great Deal of Time Consumed at Hallettsville in Arguing.

Hallettsville, Tex. - Slow progress was made today with the trial of Paul McAllister, charged with the killing of Chief of Police Crixell of Brownsville. Much time was consumed arguing over admissibility of testimony, especially that of Craft, a principal witness for the state, who is absent. The court admitted, over objection of defendant, testimony taken in the examining trial at Brownsville. Testimony was taken in shorthand, afterward typewritten and signed by witnesses when defendant was not present. J. M. Dwyer, now of San Antonio, but first lieutenant under Crixell at the time of the killing, introduced by the state, was a witness for defense.

1913 Sat Nov 8. The Galveston Daily News (Galveston, Texas).

EVIDENCE IN THIS EVENING. TRIAL OF MCALLISTER CASE AT HALLETTSVILLE WILL BE COMPLETED TODAY – ARGUMENTS WILL BEGIN MONDAY. HUNG JURY OR ACQUITTAL. THAT IS THE PREVAILING OPINION IN HALLETTSVILLE SINCE END OF HEARING IS REACHED – REBUTTAL BEING INTRODUCED. TESTIMONY CONCLUDED IN MCALLISTER CASE.

Hallettsville, Tex., Nov. 8 – 4 o'clock bulletin. Testimony concluded and all witnesses discharged. Arguments began this evening, but will not conclude before Monday afternoon.

Hallettsville, Texas, Nov. 8 – The taking of evidence in the case of the State of Texas vs. Paul McAllister, charged with killing J. L. Crixell at Brownsville will be completed some time this evening. Arguments will begin Monday morning. The general opinion among Hallettsville people who have been attending the trial is that the jury will disagree, or there will be a verdict of acquittal. After placing Paul McAllister, the defendant, and one or two or other witnesses on the stand the defense rested its case Friday at noon. Rebuttal evidence was then begun by the state, and the defense is proceeding will rebuttal this afternoon. McAllister made an excellent witness in testifying for himself. He answered

all questions promptly, not at any time becoming disconcerted. He testified he had been told of the threats by Crixell, but denied that he had called him on the night of the shooting in the manner claimed by Krafts, and other state witnesses. He said he did not shoot Crixell until he saw Crixell advancing upon him trying to draw his pistol, but never succeeded in drawing it. McAllister was severely cross examined but he stuck to his story. Introducing witnesses in rebuttal, the state put prominent citizens of Brownsville on the stand testifying to the good character and peaceable disposition of Crixell. Some witnesses were introduced to prove that Krafts, the witness who has disappeared, was seen at the shooting; others to have heard McAllister call, "Come here, Joe," others to prove that McAllister and his companions some months previous to the killing had talked in a hostile manner of Crixell. The last rebuttal witness presented by the state was the sweet old mother of Crixell, of Corpus Christi. She was placed on the stand to show that she had talked to her son about conditions in Brownsville a short time prior to the killing, and that he had made no threats against McAllister or any one else. Mrs. Crixell's testimony was not admitted. Prior to the trial McAllister has been a trusty at the Lavaca County jail, but now he is escorted to and from the jail by Deputies Ponton and Avand.

1913 Mon Nov 10. The San Antonio Light (San Antonio, Texas).  
Crixell Case Nears End.

HALLETTSVILLE, Tex. - Arguments began here today in the trial of Paul McAllister, former ranger, charged with the murder of former City Marshal Joseph Crixell of Brownsville, and the case was expected to to the jury at 5 o'clock this afternoon. Each side was allotted three hours for summing up.

1913 Tue Nov 11. The San Antonio Light (San Antonio, Texas).

McALLISTER NOT GUILTY. Former Ranger Was Charged With Murder in Brownsville.  
HALLETTSVILLE, Tex. - A verdict of not guilty was returned by a jury here today in the case of Paul McAllister, a former ranger, charged with the murder of former City Marshal Joe Crixell of Brownsville. The jury was out for twenty hours. The case was tried as a change of venue from Cameron county.

1913 Tue Nov 18. BH.

CITY NEWS. Paul McAllister Here.

Paul McAllister, who was recently acquitted in Lavaca county of a charge of killing J. L. Crixell in Brownsville, is here visiting his friends for a few days. Mr McAllister is looking perhaps better than when he left here a year ago. He will probably make his home with his mother at Corpus Christi.

1914 Tue Nov 17. BH.

Purchased a Bale of Cotton –

V. Crixell has on display at his place of business a 54 pound bale of cotton which he purchased at 10 cents per pound from a tenant on Rabb's plantation.

1915 Tue Jan 5. BH.

CITY NEWS. T. Crixell on Way Home.

A message received today from Teofilo Crixell, dated last night at El Paso, states that Mr. Crixell is on his way home, and probably will reach Brownsville Wednesday, or Thursday noon. Mr. Crixell has been in Mexico City since last August.

1915 Tue Apr 27. BH.

JUDGE JONES HAS ANOTHER SUCCESS. BROWNSVILLE ATTORNEY ADDS TO HIS RECORD IN CRIMINAL PRACTICE.

Judge W. R. Jones is successfully defending C. T. Ryan, Harry Wallis, C. W. Price and Joe Longoria in the Puig killing case has added largely to his record as a criminal lawyer. Reviewing some of the cases with which he has been connected in the past the following are shown: He commenced the Ryan cases by reason of his defense of Paul McAllister for the killing of Joe Crixell wherein Cone Johnson of Tyler, Jed Adams and other prominent attorneys were engaged in the prosecution. The defendant was held in jail for over fifteen months, bail having been refused him in all the courts. The case was moved from Cameron county to Lavaca county on a change of venue. Following the disposition of this case, Octavio M. Puig was killed. (Warnock case; General Elizondo case; Salter case; John Frisby/Hiram Knox case; Jennings case; Hutto case; Black case.) The above comprise a number of the more important cases with which he has been connected within the past few years. He was successful in all of the above with the exception of the Jennings' case in Harrison county. He prosecuted him, but Jennings was freed. Mr. Jones has defended almost exclusively for the past five years. He served eight years as county and district attorney in East Texas, and during that time was elected president of the County and District Attorneys' Association of Texas, which place he held for two years.

1915 Mon June 21. BH.

Awards and Promotions At St. Joseph's College .

Primary Grades. First grade — Adolfo Crixell, first prize reading and religion.

1915 Sat Sep 11. BH.

REPORT BLANCO IN BROWNSVILLE. PERSONAL FRIENDS HERE DECLARE REPORT UNTRUE, HOWEVER HE MAY BE IN SAN ANTONIO.

Reports that General Lucio Blanco, former constitutionalist commander in Matamoros, later jefe [de] las armas in Mexico City, later mentioned as possible candidate for president of Mexico, but who cast his lot with General Eulalio Gutierrez and left Mexico City with that commander about a year ago, arrived in Brownsville last night from San Antonio, are denied by Teofilo Crixell of this city, an intimate friend of Blanco's. Mr. Crixell said that upon reading a story in the San Antonio Light to the effect that Blanco was reported in that city, broke and without means, he immediately wired to Blanco's family, who are now residing at Del Rio, Texas. Up to this afternoon Mr. Crixell had received no reply, but expected one at any time. Although Mr. Crixell did not give the

San Antonio report full credence, he thought it quite possible that Blanco might be there because of the apparently unquestioned presence of Carlos Domingues, a member of Blanco's staff.

1916 Mon Jan 17. BH.

Lawmaker Fine

Alderman Teofilo Crixell, one of the makers of the new automobile ordinance, is the first to suffer the consequences of its violation. As reported Saturday, Mr Crixell was arrested for speeding his machine up Elizabeth street. It was said Saturday that Alderman Crixell would fight the case, which was postponed until this morning, but he evidently changed his mind. When the case was called...this morning, the alderman pleaded guilty. The mayor assessed a fine of one \$1 and costs, which Mr. Crixell cheerfully liquidated. The leniency of the mayor in imposing such a small fine is said to be due to the fact that this was the first offense under the new law. The limit of punishment under this law is \$200.

1917 Fri Mar 2. BH.

Andres Uresti is Shot at Victoria

Andres Uresti, who in the memorable city election of 1912 was a candidate for city marshal of Brownsville, was wounded in the right shoulder by a charge of birdshot, fired at close range, at Victoria, Victoria county, about midnight Monday. Uresti is a deputy sheriff at Victoria. The wound, according to reports from Victoria, is not necessarily dangerous. Uresti in a shooting that grew out of the 1912 campaign in Brownsville was literally riddled with bullets, but fully recovered in a short time.

1917 Wed Apr 18. BH.

CRIXELL ABOARD A ROBBED TRAIN. BROWNSVILLE AND HOUSTON MEN WERE TAKING SHIPMENT OF GOLD TO MEXICAN CAPITAL.

Relatives of Teofilo Crixell, who is now in the city of Mexico, have just received an account of a thrilling train robbery in which Mr. Crixell lost a considerable sum of money. Mr. Crixell in company with Henry Borden of Houston left Laredo recently for the interior of the republic. Mr. Crixell and Mr. Borden were taking a shipment of \$50,000 in gold which the express company had refused to carry. Because of its weight and in order to divert suspicion the two men had the gold boxed up and placed in the baggage car. Before the train reached the city of Mexico it was stopped by bandits and the passengers were robbed of their personal belongings. Mr. Borden was relieved of about \$1000 in cash which he had on his person. Mr. Crixell was more fortunate however, and only lost in the neighborhood of \$100. The information received here does not state whether or not the bandits located the gold and friends of Mr. Crixell and Mr. Borden are hopeful that it was overlooked.

1917 Mon Jun 4. BH.

3 MEN DEAD AFTER A DAY OF QUARRELS BETWEEN THE PRINCIPALS. ...THERE WILL BE NO ARRESTS, FOR THERE IS NO ONE ALIVE WHO WAS

## CONNECTED WITH THE AFFAIR. ...

Bad feeling had existed between Crafts and Sanchez for some time, according to friends. The two men had engaged in a difficulty about two weeks ago and again had an argument late Sunday afternoon. Gonzales' accompanying Crafts is unaccounted for, although the two men were close friends. It was reported that the two men had set out to look for Sanchez. Crafts is a member of an old and well known family of this city, and has been frequently in the public eye in the past eight or ten years. For the past year he has been operating a saloon in the eastern part of the city. Sanchez, known as 'El Marrano,' meaning "The Pig," was a gambler and monte dealer, well known in Matamoros, Brownsville and San Antonio. Gonzales formerly was a member of the city police force. Both Gonzales and Crafts are said to have had commissions as deputy constables in Constable Justino Lopez' precinct. ...

1917 Tue Aug 2. BH.

## Brother Passes Away –

Mrs Teofilo Crixell left yesterday for Corpus Christi to attend the funeral of her brother, Juan Casas, who died there yesterday morning at the age of 57. The deceased was widely known in Corpus Christi, the city of his birth, and for thirty years he was the United States mail contractor between Nueces and San Patricio counties.

1917 Sat Nov 24. [From U. S. Passport Application.]

I/Teofilo Crixell - born at New Orleans Louisiana [sic] 7<sup>th</sup> day of March 1867. That my father [no name] was born in Spain that he emigrated to the [U. S.] from the port of Balcelona [sic] Spain on or about September 1849, that he resided 30 years, uninterruptedly, in the [U. S.]. [Purpose of passport, to visit:] Mexico for Commercial Business.

1918 Mon Jan 7. BH.

## HENRY BORDEN IS DEAD OF INJURY. HOUSTON MAN WELL KNOWN IN BROWNSVILLE IS VICTIM OF A STRANGE ACCIDENT.

A telegram to Teofilo Crixell of this city from Mrs. Henry L. Borden at San Antonio this morning announced the death there early this morning of Henry L Borden, prominent resident of Houston, who was well known in Brownville and on the border. Mrs. Borden stated that the funeral will be held at Houston tomorrow, and Mr. Crixell leaves for there this afternoon to attend the services. Early Sunday morning Mr. Borden was found lying on the curb by the St. Anthony hotel at San Antonio, with an arm and leg broken and suffering from internal injuries. He was rushed to the Physicians and Surgeons Hospital. Mrs. Borden, Will C. Hogg and Dr. Gavin Hamilton arrived in San Antonio later in the day, but found that there had been no explanation of the accident that befell Mr. Borden. The theory was advanced that he fell from a window of the hotel while in a state of somnambulism. Mr. Borden was general representative in Mexico for the Mexican & Gulf Oil Company, one of the largest concerns operating in the Tampico field. For many years he occupied an important place in the social, commercial and political life of South

Texas. He was also for many years referee in bankruptcy at Houston appointed by the late Judge Walter T. Burns. Several months ago he gave up his other connections to give his entire time to the oil concern.

1918 Wed Mar 6. [From U. S. Passport Application.]

I/Vicente L. Crixell, father born Spain/deceased. Have never had a passport. Return within 6 months. Going to: Matamoros, Monterrey, Victoria, Tampico, Vera Cruz, and Mexico City for Commercial Business.

1918 Fri May 17. BH.

FORMER OFFICER HERE IS KILLED. IGNACIO TREVINO SERVED CITY OF BROWNSVILLE IN DAYS OF GUN MEN – HAD A CAREER.

Ignacio Trevino, formerly a police officer for the city of Brownsville was shot to death in front of a saloon in Matamoros Wednesday night. He was buried in the Matamoros city cemetery this afternoon. Dionicio Villareal, formerly employed on a ranch near the Arroyo Colorado, in this county, is being held in connection with the killing. The shooting followed, according to the statement of witnesses, a quarrel between the two men inside the saloon. The men left the bar in company and the shooting occurred just after they had exited through the swinging doors. Both Trevino and Villareal were employed on the same Texas ranches for a number of years and there is said to have been bad blood between them for some time. The death of Trevino brings to a close one of the most turbulent careers of the lower border. Trevino was a city policeman in the days when Brownsville was known as a "gun-fighting" town and was said to be, both by friends and enemies, one of the nerviest of the gun men. He was an intimate friend and fellow officer of William Crafts, who was killed in a triangular gunfight near the Dreamland theatre several months ago. After leaving the police force Trevino was charged with having killed an aged Mexican at a baile ground near the city. After remaining in Mexico for several months he came to the United State one night and was captured by Deputy Sheriffs and Rangers. When the hack bearing the officers and their prisoner neared the city limits it was fired upon from the brush, one of the horses being killed and several shots piercing the top. During the exciting events of the night which followed Toribio Rodriguez, a police officer, was killed, by whom was never definitely established. Trevino was acquitted in the court of the murder charge. After being freed he moved to Brooks county where he served until recently as a deputy sheriff. He had only been in Matamoros a short time and was planning to go down to the oil fields at Tampico. So far as could be learned today Trevino had no relatives living in Brownsville. He came to this city from the Arroya [Ed., Arroyo?] district.

1918. BH.

RESIDENTS OF BROWNSVILLE, WARD No. 2.

The following list is furnished by the Central Committee and contains the names of people who are expected to subscribe, in some amount, to the THIRD LIBERTY LOAN. If your name has been overlooked please notify the Chairman of the Second Ward

Committee and it will appear in a later published list which will show from time to time the amounts subscribed by "100 per cent Americans of the 2nd Ward". The Committee Cannot Call on Each Individual and Will Appreciate Your Voluntary Subscription. What Notation Will appear Opposite Your Name in an Early Issue of this Paper? LETS MAKE WARD No. TWO 100 PER CENT AMERICAN.

[Ed., long list omitted] ...Creager, R. B.; Crixell, E. C.; Crixell, Luciano; Crixell, Louis; Crixell, L. M.; Crixell, T.; Crixell, V. L. ...

1918 Fri Sep 6. BH.

SMUGGLING IS CHARGED AS A RESULT DEATH. CASES ARE OUTGROWTH OF KILLING OF OFFICER FRED TATE LAST SATURDAY NIGHT AND SEIZURE OF NINE CANS LARD. STATEMENTS ARE MADE.

As an outgrowth of the killing last Saturday night of Customs Officer Fred Tate and the subsequent seizure of nine cans of lard, found in the wagon Tate was searching at the time he was shot three cases of alleged conspiracy to smuggle have been filed before U. S. Commissioner E. K. Goodrich. The defendants in the first case are Ramon Munoz, Mike Werbiski, Ernesto Werbiski, Emelia P. Vda de Garate and Faustino Villafuente. They are charged with conspiracy to smuggle four cans of lard. A second charge has been made against Francisco Garcia and the same co-defendants alleging conspiracy for smuggle one can of lard and a third against Juan Bouis and the same co-defendants charging conspiracy to smuggle five cans. Munoz and his co-defendants were given a preliminary hearing Wednesday and were placed under a \$5000 bond. Munoz was admitted to a bond signed by V. L. Crixell and Juan M. Perez, and the other defendants with the exception of Mike Werbiski, not yet arrested, were remanded to jail. At the preliminary hearing Munoz made the following statement:

"I am a merchant doing business at the corner of 11th and Madison in the city of Brownsville, Texas. On Monday or Tuesday of last week this woman, (referring to the deft. Emilia P. Vda de Garate) came to my place of business and ordered four cans of lard for Mike Werbiski. I believed it was on Tuesday of last week when she came, she paid me \$100, that was the price for the four cans of lard. On Wednesday of last week Mike Werbiski personally came and got two cans of lard — it was in the evening a little before dark. He came again on Saturday of last week and got the remainder two cans of lard between 8 and 9 o'clock p.m. Both times Mike Werbiski came to my place the lard as stated before had been paid to me by Emilia P. Vda de Carate and was for Mike Werbiski, who came personally to get the lard and did get it on the days I have mentioned. Both times Mike Werbiski came to my place of business he was alone and drove the wagon — I knew that Mike Werbiski was a bad man and he had that reputation. I knew he had no store and that he was liable to smuggle this lard across the river — the wagon in which Mike Werbiski came to get the lard was a rather large wagon with large sideboards. My business had run very low and as a matter of fact I only made \$3[?] in the purchase of lard in question. I would have not sold it, but as stated I have done a little of late and made change to make a little profit — this is the first and only time that I have sold 4 cans of lard. I have sold, small quantities of lard but no large cans of lard."

Emilia P. Garate, alleged to have been driving the wagon at the time Mr. Tate was killed, testified:

"On Monday or Tuesday of last week I went to the store of Ramon Munoz and paid \$100 for four cans of lard. I was alone. I went on foot. On Wednesday, late in the evening I went to the same store in a buggy with Mike Werbiski; we got one can of lard and returned later for another can of lard. These two cans of lard were taken to my home on Saturday night. I went in a wagon with Ernesto Werbiski to the store of the deft. Ramon Munoz. Ernesto was with me in the wagon and Mike Werbiski was in front of us in his buggy. We loaded the two cans of lard in the wagon and then went to the store of Juan Bouis where five cans of lard onto the wagon. I paid Juan Bouis \$100 for the five cans of lard. I had all the money, \$120.00 which had been given me by Mike Werbiski and would have paid all the money to Juan Bouis, but a great many people kept coming into the store and he said, 'you can pay me the other later,' it may have been because of the many people going in and out of the store. The five cans of lard were loaded at the store of Juan Bouis by Mike Werbiski personally. We took the seven cans of lard to my house on Saturday night last and loaded three more cans of lard which were at the house; two having been taken there on Wednesday night, last week (a week ago) and the other can was taken to my house by Francisco Garcia on Saturday evening late. Mike Werbiski told me to drive to the Villa and that he would preceded me in a buggy to where two men were waiting one of the men was Jesus Munoz and the other I do not know. This man Jesus had been to the house once before. The other man I do not recall of having seen him before. I left the [yards?] under instruction of Mike Werbiski to take the cargo to the Villa. We met these two men at the corner of the alley. This man (Munoz?) got in the wagon that I was driving and the other man went in a buggy with Werbiski. When we got to the Eagle Pass Lumber Co., Mike Werbiski alighted from the buggy and told me that I should continue as they would do nothing to me, and he returned in the direction of Brownsville, while we continued in the direction of Villa Nueva. When we got to a gate leading to the brick yard the man who was ahead of us in a buggy called to us to come into the lane: he had preceded us in the lanes. I was told by the man to get down from the wagon. As I did so a shot was fired. I believe the man who was in the buggy fired the shot. The man in the wagon, [Munoz?], ran away and they both called to me to come with them that the river was near and that we would walk across. I ran through a cotton field where I lost my shoes which afterwards were found by the customs officer. Mike Werbiski has been living at my house and I had been boarding him and washing his clothes since last April. I do not now how many shots were fired by the man in the buggy. I heard one shot fired that took to be by him and afterwards heard a number of shots."

Juan Bouis and his co-defendants will be given a preliminary hearing Monday. Bouis is at liberty under a \$500 appearance bond signed by V. L. Crixell and Miguel Fernandez.

1919 Thu Jul 17. BH.

Delinquent Tax List of the Brownsville Independent School District for the Year 1918. .... NO. I. UNRENDERED ROLL 1918. ... Crixell, Joseph Est., lots 4, 5, and 6, block 42,

West Brownsville, \$7.55 ... Crixell, V. L., lots 9 and 10, block 124, Brownsville, \$17.75. Crixell, V. L. half lot (5?), block 64, Brownsville, \$31.50.

1920. [From Federal Census. Corpus Christi, Ward 5, Texas.]

Eliza Falcon, age 69, father/mother born France; married to A. G. Falcon, his age 70, read/write No, born Texas, father/mother born Mexico, occupation: Fisherman, product: Fish.

1921 Wed Aug 17. BH.

PAUL M'ALLISTER IS KNIFED, MEXICAN DEAD.

Paul McAllister, former state ranger, and well known in Brownsville in connection with the shooting and killing in 1912 of Joe Crixell, chief of police here at that time, is in the Giles Sanitarium at Corpus Christi as the result of an altercation with [Ed., Aguillaria?] Gonzales when McAllister was seriously cut with a knife. Gonzales was shot twice and died of his wounds at the Spohn sanitarium a few hours later. The Corpus Christi Caller today gives the following account of the affair:

"[Ed., Aguillaria?] Gonzales died last night at the Spohn sanitarium shortly after he had been shot twice by Paul McAllister, who is now in the Giles sanitarium and may not recover as the result of knife wounds about his body said to have been inflicted by the Mexican. The shooting occurred near the Tex-Mex depot about 7 o'clock yesterday evening following an alleged altercation between the two. [Ed., deleted much repetition.] .... As the story ran, McAllister was forced to 'shoot the Mexican off' his back. An examination of the pistol used by McAllister showed three empty shells and two of which had failed to discharge, the two remaining shells bearing marks of having snapped."

1921 Thu Aug 18. BH.

M'ALLISTER HAS GOOD CHANCE TO OVERCOME WOUND.

In reference to the condition of Paul McAllister, formerly of Brownsville, wounded in an affray at Corpus Christi Tuesday night, the Corpus Christi Caller today says:

"Paul McAllister, who was severely cut during an altercation with a Mexican, Leon Guerra, on Railroad avenue, Tuesday night, was reported as resting well last night, and it was said that chances for his recovery were much improved. Guerra, who died from the effects of pistol shots received at the time, was buried in the Catholic cemetery yesterday afternoon. Of the twelve knife wounds received by McAllister, three were of a more or less serious nature, and one, which penetrated into the hollow between the fourth and fifth rib, was viewed with much concern by attending physicians, but last night there was much improvement in the general condition of the patient, and it is now believed he will recover."

1921 Sun Nov 20. BH.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES. FOR SALE.

Confectionery business; 4 lots; 6-room residence, modern. See V. L. Crixell. 1104 Washington.

1922 Sat Jul 22. BH.

SHERIFF SALE.

By virtue of a certain execution issued by the Clerk of the County Court of Cameron County, on the 14th day of June, 1922 is a certain cause wherein Louis M. Crixell is plaintiff, and Andres Reyna is defendant, in favor of the said plaintiff for the sum of Four Hundred and Fifty (\$450.00) Dollars with interest thereon at the rate of 6 per centum per annum, from 7th day of January 1922, together with all costs of suit, that being the amount of a judgment recovered by the said Louis M. Crixell plaintiff in the County Court of Cameron County, on the 23rd day of June 1922, I have levied upon, and will on the first Tuesday [of August?].

1922 Tue August 1. BH.

SHERIFF SALE.

It being the first day of said month, at the Courthouse in the city of Brownville within legal hours, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder all the right, title and interest of Andres Reyna in and to the following described personal property, levied upon as the property of Andres Reyna to wit:

One Five Passenger Oldsmobile Car Model No. 37A, Motor No. E. D. 5489(7). The above sale to be made by me to satisfy the above described judgment for Four Hundred and Fifty (\$450.00) Dollars in favor of Louis M. Crixell, together with the costs of said suit, and the proceeds applied to the satisfaction thereof. WITNESS MY HAND this 14th day of July, 1922. W. T. VANN, Sheriff Cameron County, Texas By CHARLOTTE DIGMAN, Deputy.

1922 Sun Oct 1. BH.

One of the charming affairs of the past week's hospitalities was the shower given by Mrs. Pedro Chapa, on Friday afternoon at five o'clock, at the home of Dr. and Mrs. G. D. Fairbanks, complimenting Miss Otila Crixell, whose marriage to Mr. Henry Krausse, vice-consul of Matamoros, will take place on October the fourth. ... The affair was in the nature of a surprise for the honoree who was showered with numerous gifts from her friends. Little Mary Margaret Chapa presented the gifts to Miss Crixell when she ushered them in, in a white covered chariot. The [personnel?] included ... Misses Elvira Crixell, Eloisa Crixell, Eloisa Gutierrez of Corpus Christi ... Irene Crixell ... Salome McAllen ... A. A. Champion ...

1925 Mon Jul 6. The San Antonio Light (San Antonio, Texas).

CORPUS CHRISTI GUN BATTLE FATAL TO 3. Two Men Lie Near Death After Shooting at Nueces Roadhouse.

CORPUS CHRISTI - Investigations were being pushed here today into the gun battle near here last night, in which three peace officers were shot to death and two other men seriously wounded. A personal difficulty between two of the men is believed to have led directly to the shooting, although long standing political differences furnished a background for it. The dead are:

Paul McAllister, deputy state game, fish and oyster commission, and former policeman. R. R. Bledsoe, deputy constable. Rufus McMurray of Three Rivers and George Ryder, of San Diego, are in a hospital here in a serious condition.

#### MEET AT ROADHOUSE

The five men met in front of a roadhouse, apparently by accident. The shooting began immediately, according to women at the place. McAllister was killed instantly, while Bisbee and Bledsoe died later in a hospital. McAllister had been shot through the heart. But one bullet had been fired from his revolver. Bledsoe had three bullet wounds on his body. Both men were picked up from the road in front of the [Ed., road]house, but a few feet from each other. McMurray and Bledsoe are known to have had an altercation earlier in the day, and it is believed the quarrel was resumed when the men met at the roadhouse.

#### RESUME QUARREL

Bisbee was elected to office last fall with the support of the klan element here, and Bledsoe, his deputy, was aligned with that faction, it was said here today. Friends of the officers, however, discount any assumption that past political differences were an immediate factor in the gun battle. They believe that the previous difficulty between Bledsoe and McMurray led to the tragedy, and that the constable would not have been involved otherwise. Physicians stated this morning that McMurray had very slight chances of recovery, while Ryder probably would survive. They have forbidden any questioning of McMurray, and Ryder also is in such a serious condition no questioning of him has been pressed. He has offered no statement. No charges of any kind have been filed, the sole hope of getting at the facts depending on the recovery of Ryder, the only one of the five engaged in the battle who is expected to be able to tell just what happened.

1925 Tue Jul 7. The Galveston Daily News (Galveston, Texas).

#### M'ALLISTER FIGURED IN BORDER SHOOTING. VICTIM OF CORPUS CHRISTI FIGHT WAS ACQUITTED BACK IN 1914 [Ed., sic. Read, 1913].

The death of Paul McAllister in a fight at Corpus Christi last night recalls his trial and acquittal in 1914 [sic. Read, 1913] when he was charged with killing Joe Crixell, chief of police of Brownsville. The case was taken to Hallettsville on a change of venue. McAllister was prosecuted by an auspicious array of legal talent including R. B. Creager of Brownsville, [Ed., republican?] national committeeman; Jed Adams of Dallas, democratic national committeeman, and Cone Johnson of Tyler. J. W. Ragsdale of Victoria and W. T. Bagby of Hallettsville defended him. Virtually every peace officer of the Rio Grande Valley was at the trial, which was likened by Cone Johnson as a "convention of Texas gunmen," due to the hostility of the audience. The factions were so bitter that they were divided and formed to occupy different sides of the courtroom. McAllister was acquitted.

1925 Wed Jul 8. The San Antonio Light (San Antonio, Texas).

#### VICTIM TELLS BATTLE STORY ON DEATHBED

CORPUS CHRISTI - Another version of the battle here Sunday night which cost the lives of four men was related by Lee Ryder, brother of George Ryder, who died Monday.

George Ryder, his brother said, told him that he and Paul McAllister had left the [Ed., road] house together and had walked to his automobile, that McAllister had entered the car and that he had opened the door preparatory to entering when R. R. Bledsoe and C. M. Bisbee, deputy constable and constable arrived. Bledsoe asked Ryder where they were going, his brother quoted him as saying, and told them that they could consider themselves under arrest, and when Ryder asked why, they were under arrest, Bledsoe replied that it made no difference and that they could "just hands up." Bisbee then suggested that they leave the other two men alone, Ryder is said to have [Ed., illegible], and Bledsoe went around his own automobile. Ryder said he was still standing by the fender of his car when Bledsoe fired at him. Bisbee, it is said, then fired one shot and McAllister leaped from the automobile stumbling and falling to the ground, Bledsoe firing at him as he fell. He said that he followed Bledsoe, who ran after McAllister, firing three shots. He said that he did not know who killed Bisbee. Chief of Police J. B. Shaw said that this version corresponded with one given him by a woman at the house who witnessed the affray. Rufus McMurray, shot during the battle, will recover, attendants at the hospital believe.

1926 Sat Jan 30. [From Texas Death Index.] Eliza L. Falcon, deceased.

1933 Tue Aug 1. BH.

Couple Wed Here Monday –

The marriage of Miss Gloria Cardoza and Vicente Crixell, Jr., was solemnized Monday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock in the Immaculate Conception church with Rev. [Rose?], O.M.I. performing the ceremony. Miss Anita Cisneros and Luciano Crixell were the only attendants. The bride was gowned in a printed navy blue costume with white accessories. Mr. and Mrs. Crixell will make their home in Brownsville.

1934 Wed Sep 12. BH.

SON IS BORN

Mr. and Mrs. V. Crixell, Jr., are the parents of an eight-pound son born at the Mercy Hospital early Monday morning.

1938 Wed Sep 21. BH.

Classes Are Open Still for New Students.

The Joe Crixell dance studio which started classes Sept. 1 is still forming classes in ballet, toe acrobatic, tap and Spanish dancing, and in personality singing. The Crixell studio is the oldest in the city, and has to its credit many successful recitals as well as many former pupils who now are dancing professionally. During the summer months, Mr. Crixell enrolled in the dance course offered by Anton Tomaroff in Dallas this summer, and attended the national convention of dance instructors in New Orleans, in August. At the present time, Mr. Crixell is receiving valuable training from Miss Mary Katherine Dougherty of Yonkers, New York, who formerly danced with the Monte Carlo Ballet Russe, and other ballet companies of note. Miss Dougherty is using the Crixell

studio for workouts while here as the guest of her aunt, Mrs. John Closner. Mr. Crixell also announces the re-organization of the "Typical Mexican orchestra."

1938 Fri Oct 28. BH.

Warranty Deeds

V. L. Crixell, et ux (Isabel) to Alfonso Crixell, Lt 12, Blk. 124, city of B'ville, together with all improvements thereon. W. D. Con. ( ) 90 etc.

1938 Tue Nov 29. BH.

Society Calendar.

Luck 13 Bridge club with Mrs. E. L. Crixell.

1939 Tue Aug 8. BH.

V. L. Crixell to O. W. Singer, 23 acres in Banco No. 3, "Longoreno" Banco, Cameron Co. Ret. V. L.

1940 Tues Aug 30. BH.

Trio Given Party Event As Welcome –

A party honoring three boys on their return from the C. M. T. C., Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, was given Friday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar J. del Castillo. The boys returning from the camp were: Gilberto Borja, son of Mr and Mrs. Salvador Borja, Emilio Crixell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Vicente Crixell, Eutimio Hinojosa, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernesto Hinojosa, and Alfonso Zarate, son of Mr. Ismael Zarate. The spacious dining room was artistically decorated with balloons and multi-color paper strips. Games and dancing occupied the evening hours. Among those present were: Misses Mary Alice Leal of San Antonio, Ester Vesserron, Celia Borja, Estela Delgado, Aurora Ochoa, Rosita Laulom, Maria Sandoval, Olga and Gloria Zarate, Sylvia Perez. Sunshine Reed, Minka Egly, Gloria Torres, Aida de Leon, Esperanza del Castillo, Nidia Garcia, Rosita del Castillo, Lilia Flores and Maria Luisa Laulom. Salvador and Gilberto Borja, Eutimio Hinojosa, Tony Valdez, Jr, Tony Champion, Alfonso Zarate, Joe and Emilio Lavios, Oscar and Joe Louis Egly, Oscar J. del Castillo Jr, Ernesto Perez, Ernesto and Francisco Cruz, Emilio Crixell, Abelardo Oliveira, Guillermo Gutierrez, Fernando de Luna, Joe and Manfred del Castillo, Rafael Flores, Jr., and Gustavo Garza.

1941 Tue Apr 29. BH.

Brownsville Pair United In Marriage

Simple marriage rites were solemnized Monday afternoon for Miss Beca Villarreal, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. B. Villarreal and Mr. Alfonso Crixell, son of Mr. and Mrs. V. L. Crixell, Sr. The rites were read in the rectory of the Church of the Immaculate Conception at 3:30 o'clock by the Rev. Father Joaquin Gonzales. The bride wore a beige frock with accessories of British tan. She was attended as maid of honor by Miss Bebe Marques, and Miss Lydia Crixell was bridesmaid. Best man to the groom was Mr. Henry Bowman, and groomsman was Mr. Antonio Alonso. Immediately after the ceremony the

bride and groom left on a honeymoon trip.

1941 Wed May 7. BH.

DEATH TAKES T. CRIXELL, SR. Pioneer Once Lived At Bagdad.

Teofilo Crixell, Sr., one of the last survivors of the 1867 storm that wiped out Clarksville and the fabulous city of Bagdad, at the mouth of the Rio Grande, died at 4 p. m. Tuesday afternoon at his home in Brownsville. Mr. Crixell, 74 years old, had been in ill health for several years. He will be buried in the Crixell family plot at Buena Vista cemetery after funeral services at 5 p. m. at Sacred Heart Church. The funeral procession will leave from the Darling funeral home on Levee street. Rev. Francis Duffy, O.M.I., will officiate.

Here Many Years

Long associated with the political life of Brownsville and its civic and commercial development, Mr. Crixell lived here almost continuously since 1902, when he came to the city as representative of the San Antonio Brewing Association. Mr. Crixell was born in New Orleans on March 7, 1867, and that same year his parents, Vicente Crixell, native of Barcelona, and Eliza Laulom Crixell, native of Lyons, France [sic], sailed to Bagdad. That city, on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande, and Clarksville, on the American side, were at the peak of a Civil War boom at that time. From 1861 to 1867 there were always 30 or 40 vessels in transit there and at times as many as 300 ships from all parts of the world were at anchor off the mouth of the Rio Grande. The violent storm of 1867 wiped out Bagdad and Clarksville, and that same year, Mr. Crixell's parents moved to Matamoros. They remained there and in Brownsville until 1873, when they went to Corpus Christi, traveling overland to Port Isabel and from there by sail boat to Corpus Christi.

Was in Politics

From the time he returned to Brownsville in 1902, Mr. Crixell became actively connected with the city's political and civic life. As alderman from 1906 to 1910 he took part in a number of civic enterprises, serving on the committee that brought the first railroad linking the Valley with the rest of the country. He was instrumental in establishing the electric light and water systems and in obtaining the first street paving for Brownsville. From 1906 to 1912 his brother, the late Joseph Crixell, was city marshal. In 1914, Mr. Crixell moved to Tampico where he remained until 1923 with the legal department of the Mexican Gulf Oil Corporation. He returned to the Valley in 1923 at which time, in association with his brothers, V. L. and Louis, he organized the street car system from Matamoros to Santa Cruz and was in business there until 1934. The latter point was then the ferry landing point on the Mexican side for the rowboats that operated between the American and Mexican shores before the Gateway bridge was constructed. Under the Crixell direction, the old mule cars were abolished and motorized vehicles replaced them.

Retired in '30s

In 1934 he joined the Midland Oil Company of San Antonio as field representative working out of San Antonio and Corpus Christi. In 1939 when his health began failing, he retired, and had lived in Brownsville until the time of his death. Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Rose Mac-Susam Crixell; son, Teofilo Crixell, Jr.; daughter, Mrs. A. A.

Champion; brothers, V. L. and Louis, Brownsville; sister, Mrs. Rose Crixell Gutierrez, Corpus Christi; and several grandchildren. Andres Cueto, Jr., W. A. Putegnat, Juan Jose Champion, Wilbur Dennet, Reynaldo Garza and Cuban Monsees will be active pallbearers. Honorary pallbearers include George Putegnat, B. L. Kowalski, Rev. R. O. Mackintosh, A. H Fernandez, A. B. Cole, Earl Dutro, R. L. Boelding, H. W. Goforth, Ramon Marquez, William Willman, Angel Ruenes, Manuel Cisneros, W. A. Putegnat, R. B. Creager, Ben Freudenstein, T. A. Kinder, Sr., John B. Champion, J. P. Putegnat, Joaquin Fernandez, Manuel Barreda, Antonio Barreda, Augustine Celaya, Oscar Souder, Gonzalo Garibay, Charles Champion, Harry Hollowell, Henry Bell, Eduardo Bermea, Manuel Escamilla, August O. Champion, Rafael de la Garza, E. L. Buckley, Claude Buckley, William Buckley, Pedro Hermosa, William S. West, Conrad Cloetta, John Gregg, Richard Morris, Harold Jefferds, Jesus Villarreal, J. A. Garcia and Lamar Gill.

1943 Mon Aug 30. BH.

MRS. JOSEPH CRIXELL

Mrs. Joseph Crixell, 71 for 41 years a Brownsville resident, was buried Sunday afternoon in the family plot at the old city cemetery, after services at the Immaculate Conception church. She died at her home, 832 Adams St., of a heart attack Saturday night. Born in Henderson, Tex., Mrs. Crixell came here in 1902 from Corpus Christi. Having lost her sight some time ago, she had been confined to her home for the last few years. Pallbearers were Bernie Kowalski, Leonel Garza, Ike Kibbe, Joe Besteiro, A. B. Guerra, and Roman Castro of Harlingen.

1943 Wed Sep 1. BH.

Card of Thanks

We wish to express our appreciation to all who were so kind to us during the death of our dear Mother (Mrs. Joseph Crixell). Eloisa Crixell, Vicente [C. = Chavana] Crixell, Joe Crixell and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Krausse.

1943 Fri Oct 15. BH.

Reece Answers Runyon Charge, Says Debt Paid

... Mayor Robert Runyon... it included, he said, six city employees. Runyon pointed to the names of V. C. Crixell, Mary V. Campbell, Rodolfo Bustinza, Dolores Lopez, H. H Banker, and Ralph Schmeling as city employees who are listed as prospective election officers. "Under the Revised Primary and General Election Laws of Texas," Runyon said, "no one who holds an office of profit in the state or town can serve as an election official. ..."

1944 Mon Jun 19. BH.

Miss Crixell Is Wed to Cpl. Raul Reyna

Mr. and Mrs. V. L. Crixell announce the marriage of their daughter Lydia Rosa to Cpl. Raul F. Reyna of San Antonio at the bride's home, 811 Madison, Friday, Jun 10th with the Justice of Peace officiating. Witnesses were Mr. and Mrs. Manuel Garzon and Mr.

and Mrs. A. N. Vela Jr. The bride and groom left immediately after the ceremony for San Antonio where another ceremony was solemnized in Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church with the Rev. Joe Haster reading the lines. Witnesses at this time were Mr. and Mr. David F. Reyna. Cpl. Reyna is stationed at Fort Riley, Kansas.

1950 Thu May 18. BH.

City To Get Cargo Line

Trans-Air de Cuba, Cuban cargo air line, will base its Mexican Central American operations at Rio Grande Valley International Airport, according to Airport Manager T. C. Crixell, Jr.

1950 Sun Nov 19. BH.

Catholic Women's Parish Council Installs Members.

Mrs. Elisa Crixell Garza and Mrs. Jose Sandoval, assisted by several members, will be in charge of the NCCW booth at the Valley MidWinter Fair on Monday in Harlingen.

1950 Wed Nov 29. BH.

Have New Son

Mr. and Mrs. Cesar A. Garza of Matamoros announce the arrival of a son, Cesar Amador, Jr., born Nov. 24 at Mercy Hospital. Mrs. Garza is the former Miss Maria Teresa Crixell of Brownsville.

1953 Mon Apr 20. BH.

FIFTY YEARS PHOTOGRAPHED

Mr. and Mrs. V. L. Crixell got out the family photograph album to look over some of the pictures depicting their 50 years of married life. Some of them brought back memories long forgotten, for rearing nine children and entertaining 26 grandchildren has left little time for looking backward. Brownsville Couple Observes Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Mr. and Mrs. V. L. Crixell, Sr., held open house to about 50 relatives and close friends Wednesday evening at their home at 811 Madison, in celebration of their golden wedding. Looking amazingly youthful for a bride of 50 years ago, Mrs. Crixell wore a white carnation corsage pinned to her navy blue crepe and lace dress, and her husband wore a carnation in his lapel. Their home was filled with congratulatory floral arrangements, sent by their children and friends. The Crixells are proud of their large family. Of the nine children, three are Mr. Crixell's by a previous marriage, but his wife smilingly said she "could tell no difference in them." When the Crixells were married 50 years ago – on April 15, 1903 – in Corpus Christi, Mrs. Crixell was a typical bride in white organdy and lace. A year later she came with her new husband in a buggy to Brownsville. Following in another buggy were his mother and his three small children. Shortly afterward they built the house where they still live and where they reared their family. Mr. Crixell has vivid memories of Brownsville as it was 49 years ago and of the various steps of its growth and progress. All of their children except the eldest and the youngest were present for their parents' golden wedding celebration. They are Louis and

Emile. The others are Luciano, Irene (Mrs. Charles A. See), Vicente, Jr., Arturo, Eliza (Mrs. J. R. Garza) Maria Isabel (Mrs. A. N. Vela, Jr.) Alfonso and Lydia (Mrs. Raul F. Reyna). There are 26 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

1955 Sun May 15 1955. BH.

Vincent Crixell [III] Named Officer In UT Society. AUSTIN –

Vincent L. Crixell, University of Texas student from Brownsville is the new vice-president of Kappa Psi service organization in the College of Pharmacy. Crixell, a sophomore majoring in pharmacy is a member of Phi Eta Sigma, honor society to which he was elected on the basis of his freshman grades, Delta Sigma Phi social fraternity, Alpha Phi Omega for ex-Boy Scouts, and is listed on the honor roll for the fall semester. He is holder of a \$50 Lilia M. Casis Scholarship; a \$50 Behrns Drug Company Scholarship given to junior and senior students who have maintained a B average in the College of Pharmacy. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. V. Crixell Jr., 335 East Adams.

1959 Tue Jan 6. BH.

Services for Joe Crixell Set At 4 P.M.

Joe Crixell, a member of one of Brownsville's pioneer families, died at 2:45 p.m. Monday in Mercy Hospital. Mr. Crixell was 54 years of age and resided at 1654 W. Washington St. Born in Corpus Christi he had lived in Brownsville many years. He had been a dancing teacher for approximately 23 years and had the oldest dancing studio in Brownsville. Mr. Crixell is survived by two sisters, Mrs. Henry G. Krausse of Brownsville, and Miss Eloise Crixell of Veracruz, Mexico. Also a nephew Henry G. Krausse Jr. of Buenos Aires, Argentina. Services will be held today at 4 p.m. from the Darling Funeral Home in St. Joseph's Church. Burial will be in the Old City Cemetery. Honorary pallbearers are August O. Champion, Raul Garcia, Celso Oliveira, James McNeill, J. V. Samuels, Joe Vivier, Arthur Neale, and Oscar Broea. Active pallbearers are Les Mauldin, William Scanlan, Alfred Putegnat, Vicente Crixell Jr., Emilio Crixell, and Daniel Tamez.

1959 Sun Apr 12. The Victoria Advocate (Victoria, Texas).

LONGHORNS SHORT TAILS

By Sid Feder

Why Mr. Houchins Has Special Interest in Confederate Money

[Ed., above all, containing major errors of fact, and then personal opinions, interpretations, and speculations throughout. Cf., for correct information: 1912 Sat Aug 10 account; 1925 Mon Jul 6; 1925 Tue Jul 7; 1925 Wed Jul 8.]

... This was back when politics in Brownsville made it the wildest and wooliest spot in the old wild west, and a fellow monkeying around in elections and such, sooner left his shoes at home than his six-shooter any time he showed up out in the streets. It was safer. This was one case that spilled all the way up in this neck of the woods with a murder trial at Hallettsville that made the town look like a re-run of the Battle of the Marne [Ed., figurative language since only one side in the "battle," the defendant's side, were armed].

And it winds up even closer to home base than that, on account of all the wild-and-wooly stuff is topped off by a banana split ... honest! ... that involved Mr. Gene Houchins, who is a gent right here in our town. A banana split, incidentally, that our Gene did not get. Now, what brings up the matter just now is a brand new book that comes to hand on the history of Lavaca County, which is where Hallettsville sets, as you know. The label [Ed., read, "book title"] is "Sand In Your Craw" and it is one of the spiciest jobs of painting word pictures about the history of this neighborhood. This is composed by Paul C. Boethel, the former District Attorney up there around Hallettsville, and what Paul C. does not know about these parts might just as well be forgotten on account if he doesn't know it, it just doesn't count. Paul has strung together anecdotes and incidents of feuds and fires and frolics around Lavaca, and he has peppered up the whole thing with a solid smattering of the old rustlers' wars on the range that used to keep a cowboy moving pretty lively, just so he wouldn't be a target. How this shooting business and politics got started was as follows:

Back around 1912, Brownsville was sitting on a keg of TNT with a lit cigar, because of the goings-on between the city political machine and the Cameron County outfit. The City set-up was topped off by Joe Crixell, who was the chief of police and was throwing a pitch to take over the County [Ed., Feder's/Boethel's interpretation]. The County crowd was then run by Jim Wells. One of the Deputy Sheriffs was Paul McAllister, a tall, lean law man about 33. He'd been a Ranger until early in '12, then he turned in his badge [Ed., was "released" as Ranger; cf., 1912 Jan 31] and hooked up with the County Sheriff's office. Paul and Crixell had a couple of run-ins, and practically everyone in the Valley knew [Ed., hyperbole] that it was only a question of time before the balloon went up [Ed., figurative language]. It happened in the 1912 Primary elections, in which one Ernesto [Ed., Andres Uresti? Cf., 1917 Fri Mar 2] ran for Chief of Police against Crixell. Ernesto [sic] was shot down in the street, given an assortment of playful kicks in the head and left there. McAllister arrested four of Crixell's men and put a charge of assault to murder on them. Crixell exploded in all directions simultaneously [Ed., Feder's/Boethel's? figurative interpretation/speculation]. He began spreading the word around as to what he had in mind. And what he had in mind was by no means smoking the peace pipe with P. McAllister. "I," he vowed, "am going to get that so-and-so the first chance I have." In the evening of August 9, McAllister dragged a chair onto the sidewalk in front of a downtown hotel [Ed., Club saloon; cf., 1912 Sat Aug 10] and was sitting there when Crixell arrived. Out came the old equalizers [Ed., only McAllister drew a weapon; cf., 1912 Sat Aug 10], and when the smoke settled, there was Crixell with seven [Ed., six; cf., 1912 Sat Aug 10] bullets in him. He was somewhat dead. Because everyone around Brownsville was all heated up with politics, there wasn't any more chance of getting a square trial there [Ed., interpretation] than there is of peddling Florida oranges in California. So, the trial was shifted to Hallettsville. It was strictly old home week for law men in Lavaca County. Every Ranger and ex-Ranger and hope-to-be Ranger and their brothers and uncles and even the second cousins on their mamas' side was on hand to see that their old buddy, P. McAllister, got a square shuffle [Ed., interpretation] from the Law. The special prosecutor was Cone Johnson, one of the

smartest mouth pieces ever seen in these parts. He was a candidate for governor in 1910 and he was a leader in the Prohibition movement in Texas ... and please do not knock him for that at this late date. Anyway, he took one look at the Law men complete with holsters full of guns all over town, and you could have knocked him over with the recoil of a .45. "It seems," he remarked, according to Paul Boethel's book, "as if there is being held in Hallettsville this week the State Convention of the Amalgamated Gunmen's Association of Texas, ready to pull out a brother ex-Ranger in trouble." Well, the trial was held, and it wound up with the jury acquitting McAllister, and he was turned loose. He headed for Corpus Christi, where mama lived. The boys who did not like him trailed him there [Ed., Feder's or Boethel's non-factual allegation]. Seems they sent word [Ed., non-factual allegation] they were ready to bury the hatchet if Paul would meet and pow-wow with them [Ed., non-factual; cf., 1925 Mon Jul 6, "met...by accident"]. What they didn't say ... out loud, anyway [Ed., non-factual]... was that where they planned to bury the hatchet was right in Paul's hide [Ed., non-factual allegation]. He showed up at a joint they named [Ed., non-factual; cf., 1925 Mon Jul 6, "met...by accident"], and ran smack in as neat a boxed-up set-up [Ed., by whom?] as he'd ever looked at. Two torpedoes [Ed., figurative; read, "men"] were waiting, and they shot him deader than a canned mackerel .. but before he turned in his chips, he blasted both of them [Ed., shot once; cf., 1925 Mon Jul 6] out of the world with him. Now, getting back to Hallettsville, the murder trial that looked like a convention of law men was noticed somewhat by the citizens, naturally. And one of the citizens was aforementioned Gene Houchins. Gene's a lawyer in our town now, as you know, with a stretch as an FBI man behind him. [Ed., digression omitted] Back then he was 7-8 yrs old. The morning the action [Ed., read "trial"] started in Hallettsville, Gene walked into the Lavaca Sheriff's office (his father was the sheriff). And who was there...but [Ed., sheriff's] buddy Ranger Captain J. M. Fox. ...all the law men who came to see that McAllister got everything he had coming to him [Ed., bias], showed up with their holsters strapped down to their legs... Fox said, "watch this, sonny..." [Ed., summary: lit a \$10 bill, lit cigar, enough bill left for currency, gave it to the child/Houchins who unsuccessfully tried to buy ice cream with it; it was a Confederate bill]. "And ever since," Gene tells you now, "My watchword is: 'Save your Confederate money, men; the South will rise again!'" McAllister eventually was freed after his lawyers won a trial claiming self-defense. ....

1963 Thu Jan 31. BH.

#### LUCIANO CRIXELL

Luciano Crixell 66, of 2444 Hipp St. died Wednesday a 9:30 p.m. in Mercy Hospital following a lengthy illness. Mr. Crixell, a member of a pioneer Brownsville family lived here 60 years. He came from Corpus Christi in 1906 with his family. He was educated in the local schools; was a member of the Knights of Columbus; and member of Our Lady of Guadalupe organizations. He had been employed for several years by the Cameron County Gateway Bridge. Surviving Mr. Crixell are his widow, Mrs. Esther Aceves Crixell; his mother, Mrs. V. L. Crixell, Sr.; six brothers, Louis, Arturo, Vincent, Jr, Frank and Emilio of Brownsville and Alfonso of Houston; four sisters, Mrs Irene See of

Phoenix, Ari., Elisa Garza of San Benito, Mary Isabel Vela of Houston and Lydia Reyna of Hialeah, Fla; and several nieces and nephews. A rosary will be said at 8 p.m. today in Darling Chapel. Requiem mass will be said at 8 a.m. Friday in Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church. Funeral services are scheduled at 4 p.m. Friday from Darling Funeral Home.

1966 Sun Nov 13. BH.  
LOUIS L. CRIXELL

Louis L. Crixell, well-known former businessman here and in the Valley died Saturday at the age of 91 in Hollywood, Calif. Mr. Crixell, who left Brownsville in the early 1940s, had been living at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Francis Kowalski, at 1741 N. Taft in Hollywood. Mr. Crixell, a member of a pioneer area family, was born in Corpus Christi and settled in Brownsville in 1900. Survivors include two other daughters, Mrs. Eugene Parker of Killeen, Tex., and Mrs. Way Hornbek of Oklahoma, a number of nieces and nephews in Brownsville and grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Funeral services for Mr. Crixell are to be held Monday in San Fernando Mission near Hollywood.

1969 Thu Jul 24. The San Antonio Light (San Antonio, Texas).  
Texas Trails. Valley Family Finds Success.  
BY HART STILWELL

There has been a lot in the newspapers recently about Bernard Kowalski, native Texan who directed Cinerama's "Krakatoa, East of Java," which opened here a few days ago. I watched Bernie, as he is called, put on his child acting show before he reached the age of five, at which time his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Kowalski, set sail from Brownsville for Hollywood hoping to make it rich on their child actor son. That was about the time Shirley Temple was demonstrating just how much loot a little brat could earn in the movies. Mamas and papas from here and yonder were trying to survive the big depression by taking their kids to Hollywood and cashing in. Bernie, even though he was a striking looking child with acting ability – something almost all the Kowalskis had – never made it in the big time as an actor. His father managed to struggle along doing various jobs for the movie people finally becoming an assistant director, which paid a fair tab.

Stale Oatmeal

But there were times when the Kowalski family competed with cockroaches for the stale oatmeal which was the only thing they could afford to buy. I got that story from my sister, Mrs. T. Crixell of Brownsville, who is related by marriage to the Kowalskis. Bernie is a second cousin of two nieces of mine. Finally Bernie hit the big time as a director, and his career has been spectacular, considering he is only 40 now and has been directing for a dozen years or more. The Kowalski family in Brownsville has always interested me because of the extremely complex blending all along the line of different religious, ethnic, cultural and linguistic stocks which resulted in some of the most strikingly beautiful children and young women I have ever seen. About 1846, when this country established the Rio Grande as a southern boundary, a large number of

adventuresome young men came from the Old World to the area near the mouth of the Rio Grande to seek their fortune. Mexican Side, too. And I say the area, since some settled at the Civil War boom town of Bagdad, on the Mexican side of the river near its mouth, a few settled at Port Isabel, some moved on into Brownsville. Unlike the Anglo settlers of our eastern coast, these men did not bring their families. So they married the women who were there – Spanish-Mexican. The Kowalskis were among the early arrivals. They were Polish Jews, although not orthodox. Then there were the Cobolins and Champions (originally Camptoni) from Italy, a few people from Greece, some from Syria, Lebanon, and the Crixells from France [sic]. And, of course, quite a few from England and Ireland. It was truly a racial conglomerate. Then came those striking looking children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren, most with lovely olive skin and dark hair, some with blue eyes and fair hair – and I mean even in one family you would have such a difference. These were the “hybrids” you hear some people talk about with scorn. Most were bright, talented, personable, adventuresome. Francis Kowalski, Bernie’s father, carried on the tradition by marrying a Crixell. My sister married a Crixell, a cousin of Mrs. Francis Kowalski. One of my nieces by that marriage has large, dark eyes, the other is a blue-eyed blonde.

#### Talent, Energy

I knew Francis Kowalski and his wife quite well for years. They live now with their son Bernie. Like most of the men of the clan, Francis was a striking looking man with a lot of talent and energy. He had one talent that impressed me quite a bit – he was a magician with cards. I watched him in operation a few times and politely declined when he suggested I git in on a little poker game. Sophie Kowalski, a sister of Francis, was an unusually talented ballet dancer. The last I heard of her she was conducting a dance school in Houston. There was simply no way for these talented people to derive any financial benefit from their ability in the little town of Brownsville. But in thinking of the Kowalski story, I often have wondered about the ancestors back along the line. Was there some Magyar stock? Some Gypsy? There definitely was a lot of mixture long before the Kowalskis came to the New World. And a lot of talent. So when young Bernie didn’t make it as a child actor or an adult actor, he turned to directing. The rest is history.

1973 Wed Jan 10. The San Benito News (San Benito, Texas).

#### Resident’s Kin Succumbs

Mrs. Isabel Z. Crixell, of Brownsville, who was the mother of Mrs. John R. Garza [Elisa Crixell Garza] of San Benito, died Sunday in Mercy Hospital at the age of 91. Other survivors include four [Ed., read “three”] other daughters, Mrs. Charles A. See of Brownsville, Mrs. Alfredo Vela of Houston, [and] Mrs. Raul F. Reyna of Hialeah, Fla, and Mrs. Luciano Crixell of Pittsburg, Calif.; five sons, Emilio, Arthur, Vincent Jr., Frank, all of Brownsville, and Alfonso Crixell of Houston; 32 grandchildren and 42 great grandchildren. Funeral services were held Tuesday afternoon in Immaculate Conception Cathedral with interment in City Cemetery. Darling Mouser Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

1976 Fri Oct 8. BH.

Mrs. Irene C. See, 76, of 1944 [W.?]. Madison St., died today at Retama Manor Nursing Home. She was a lifetime resident and member of a pioneer Brownsville family. She was the daughter of the late Vincent Crixell and Irene Munoz Crixell and a member of the Immaculate Conception Cathedral. Survivors include her husband Charles See Sr. of Brownsville, a son Charles See Jr. of Los Angeles, Calif., five brothers, Vincent, Arturo, Frank, Emilio Crixell all of Brownsville and Alfonso Crixell of Houston, and three sisters, Mrs. Alfredo Vela of Houston, Mrs John Garza of San Benito and Mrs. Raul Reyna of Miami.

2003 Mon Dec 15. BH.

Public safety museum nears completion

Police Chief Joseph Crixell, who at the time was called the city marshal, was killed in August 1912 by Paul McAllister, a deputy sheriff and former Texas Ranger. "There was a lot of animosity between the sheriff's office, which was controlled by one party, and the city," Garcia said. "Crixell was a Republican [Ed., Independent Party]."

2014 Fri Dec 19. The Valley Morning Star (Harlingen, Texas).

DEATH AT THE BALLPARK. 1909 baseball season read like a murder mystery

By RENE TORRES Special to the Star

If you were visiting Brownsville early in the 20th century, you would find a city with profound differences in social classes and no different than the Wild West. A town that was violent and corrupt with political bosses waving the colors as a Democrat or Independent. On the eve and throughout the Mexican Revolution, one of the major entertainments of the period was baseball, especially for the Mexican American citizens of the city. In 1909, the Brownsville Baseball Club was one of the best amateur nine in South Texas with a roster of all Caucasian players. The other team in town, which got less attention from the press, was known as "Texas Lunch" (later named Texas Café). The team carried the name of the popular restaurant owned by the Marques family, which was located in the Market Square area of the city. The '09 season read like a chapter of a murder mystery. It was full of intrigue with guns, flames, politics and eventually murder. And the Daily Herald thought enough of baseball that it reported on national and local baseball stories with detail and frequency — with the "Diamond Gossip" column providing the intangibles of the game. Baseball in Brownsville was a good proposition and the newspaper was doing its part to promote it. Regardless of the make-up of the team, the Mexican American fans supported the city team. The season gave the fans a lot to cheer about and at times became riotous in their support. So was the case when guns were waved and fists started to fly due to an argument at the ball park — and it was not because of a bad call on the diamond. The incident that gave America's pastime and Brownsville a black eye started in the bleachers. Some fans complained that a Mexican American fan was blocking their view and that he refused to take his seat after repeated pleas from the crowd. The situation took a turn for the worst when George Cleveland, ticket taker, went up and told the individual to take his seat — but again refused to do so

and a fight ensued. Pat Combe, who was close to the action, lost his temper and with a pistol in hand, began barking vulgar language toward the Mexican American fans. This bonehead incident resulted in further chaos.

#### "Fire Bugs" at the ball park

On June 17, 1909 at 2 a.m. Brownsville woke up to the smell of smoke. The ball park which normally served as a stage for flaming fastballs was consumed with fire — this was the work of "fire bugs," wrote the daily. Because the ball park was located outside the boundaries of the city, the fire department was unable to help. The fire was first witnessed by those crossing by ferry from Matamoros. When people did get to the scene, they worked like Trojans to stop the fire — but it was too late. When it was all over, the grand stand, dressing rooms, ticket office and part of the fence were destroyed. Was the fire in revenge for the incident that occurred at the ball park when the Mexican American fans were embarrassed and cussed at by Pat Combe? A Herald editorial at the time suggested that it was. No evidence on who committed the crime was ever produced. But the Herald was strong in condemning the action and was sure that the "fire bugs" arose from the incident at the ball park.

#### Incident changes election of 1910

During this era, the political climate in Brownsville was controlled by two parties. The Democratic Party, led by Jim Wells, called the "Blues" and the "Reds," the Independent Party, headed by R. B. Creager. The Democratic Party rarely lost an election before 1910. But things changed, and guess what? The incident at the ball park had a hand in that change. The Mexican American citizens of the community turned out in record numbers to support Joe L. Crixell, helping him to defeat Fred Combe for the office of City Marshall. The fight that angered the fans at the ball park proved to be costly for the Democratic Party — this was the first time that a "Reds" candidate had defeated a Democrat. Crixell went on to win a second term in the election of 1912, which infuriated the Democrats. The "Blues" thought that Joe was the strong man of the Independent Party — but it was his brother Teofilo who pulled the political strings. The fact that the Independent Party was gaining political power did not sit well with the "Blues" so trouble was lurking at the old saloon.

#### Crixell gunned down on Elizabeth Street

The discontent between the two rival parties came to a climax on August 9, 1912, when City Marshal Joe L. Crixell was murdered. He died mere steps in front of his brother's saloon on Elizabeth Street. Six shots were fired at close range by Paul McAllister, an ex Ranger and known gunman, and Joe died instantly. Witnesses to the shooting saw a cold blooded murder and, without a doubt, McAllister was the killer, it was said. It was believed that the Democrats hired McAllister to kill perhaps the wrong Crixell. The case aroused so much hatred in the city that it was moved to Hallettsville where McAllister was acquitted on the plea of self defense. The bleacher incident woke-up a sleeping giant. The burning of the ball park was a tragedy, but baseball officials bounced back by building a bigger and better facility. On the political side, the incident changed the face of Brownsville politics. The Spanish-speaking citizens demonstrated their political wisdom by voting in record numbers for Independent candidates. Their vote would no

longer be ignored. To those who knew him, Joe was a colorful, decent person who unfortunately lost his life because he stood in the midst of dirty politics. Democracy in Brownsville at the time was celebrated by a select few — the extent of your individual rights depended on who your friends were and the size of your gun. Just weeks after the fire — a new ball park with big enough grounds for holding the Mid-Winter Fair became a reality. Baseball fans were once again cheering for the home team — but this time around with noticeable security on hand. “He who is a good batter makes good dough!”



2002 Mon Dec 23. The New York Times.

John Downing Weaver, 90; Cleared Names of Wronged Soldiers

By WOLFGANG SAXON

John Downing Weaver, a writer whose research set right a historical wrong done to 167 black infantrymen in Brownsville, Tex., 96 years ago, died on Dec. 4 in Las Vegas, where he moved from Los Angeles 10 years ago. He was 90.

Angelenos celebrated him as their chronicler. He devoted much of his writing to his adopted city and, among other things, wrote its entry in the current edition of the Encyclopaedia Britannica.

Nationally, he was best known for "The Brownsville Raid: The Story of America's Black Dreyfus Affair" (Norton, 1970). The book recalled the incident of 1906 in which an all-black Army unit stationed at nearby Fort Brown was blamed for a burst of gunfire that left a white resident dead and another wounded.

Unit commanders said they thought all their men were in their barracks at the time, and the men denied knowing anything. The Brownsville mayor and others testified otherwise and produced spent rifle shells to prove their case.

There was evidence that the shells had been planted to frame the men, but investigators accepted the words of the accusers. President Theodore Roosevelt affirmed an order to cashier 167 soldiers for conspiring to remain silent.

A United States Senate committee upheld the president's action in 1908, and there the Brownsville affair rested for many years. It came to the fore again with the civil rights movement.

Mr. Weaver took up the subject because of things told to him as a child and long forgotten. His father, Henry B. Weaver, the official reporter for the House of Representatives, had served earlier as the government's reporter in the rather perfunctory Brownsville inquiry.

His interest piqued, John Weaver revisited the case and its piles of dusty records; his painstakingly documented book reopened the argument for the men's innocence. The Army followed up with a new investigation and, in 1972, ordered the men's honor posthumously restored.

Mr. Weaver was born in Washington and graduated from the College of William and Mary in 1932. He received an M.A. from George Washington University in 1933 and served in the Army Signal Corps in World War II.

He held jobs with the National Recovery Administration and worked as a reporter, feature writer and editor at The Kansas City Star before becoming a freelance writer in 1940. He wrote articles, book reviews and short stories for national publications and was West Coast editor for Holiday and Travel & Leisure magazines in the 1960's and 1970's.

His portraits of Los Angeles were presented in "Pueblo Grande: Los Angeles From the Brush Huts of Yangna to the Skyscrapers of the Modern Metropolis" (1973) and "Los Angeles: The Enormous Village" (1980).

He edited "Glad Tidings: A Friendship in Letters: The Correspondence of John Cheever and John D. Weaver, 1945-1982" (1993), and wrote several other books, including a 1967 biography of Earl Warren, the 15th chief justice of the United States. ....

Theodore Roosevelt Center at Dickinson State University (Dickinson, ND)

<http://www.theodorerooseveltcenter.org/Learn-About-TR/TR-Encyclopedia/Race-Ethnicity-and-Gender/The-Brownsville-Incident.aspx>

The Brownsville Incident (1906) occurred in Brownsville, a town in south Texas, where, on August 13, 1906, a race-related fracas occurred that resulted in the wounding of one white civilian and the death of another. White townspeople blamed the African-American soldiers of the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry recently stationed at nearby Fort Brown. President Theodore Roosevelt discharged without honor the entire regiment of 167 men, despite the fact that all the soldiers asserted their innocence. Roosevelt did not expel the white officers, who attested that the soldiers had been in their barracks at the time of the melee in town. No military trial was ever held. A Texas court cleared the soldiers of wrongdoing. Roosevelt nevertheless sided with the white citizens of Brownsville who swore the soldiers were guilty. He sent investigators to assess the events of August 13, but his mind was already made up. The report, dated February 7, 1909, reinforced the stories of the civilians and found the regiment to be at fault. Roosevelt's dismissal of the innocent soldiers is usually considered his worst mistake as president. The men lost their careers, salaries, pensions, and military honors. Roosevelt faced criticism from many sectors, but never backed down, changed his mind, or apologized. In 1970, journalist John Weaver scrutinized the evidence and interviewed those still living. He concluded that the white citizens of Brownsville had misled earlier investigators and that the soldiers were innocent of the charges against them. Weaver's work stirred the U. S. Congress to conduct another study. Their findings mirrored Weaver's, and in 1972, Congress reversed Roosevelt's order of dismissal and made restitution to the soldiers.

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## Editor's Addendum

This little summer project of mine collecting these newspaper articles through genealogical searches took me where it willed through its results, and those results focused on the family, not on the Fort Brown affair of 1906, which barely made it through the Search filters. I had read John D. Weaver's *The Brownsville Raid* in 1974, as is documented by my dated and marked-up copy, and about that time went so far as to make a copy of Joe Crixell's testimony to the Senate committee, but did not then experience the impact of those materials sufficiently. I knew abstract, global things, but didn't know what things meant in my intimate neck of the woods. Most history except for Hitlerism was not so personally damning to me during my long period of conventionally orthodox, sanitized education.

The Confederacy seemed far removed from Sundays at my grandparents' house in the 1950s. The so called Brownsville Affray was chock full of confusing details, with Joe, whose relationship I barely grasped, coming across as charmingly funny and more of a source for interesting details of daily life and business in a frontier town. What I got out of it back then was that a wrong to African Americans, which was not unusual in its time or in the whole history of the country for that matter, had been done but had eventually been corrected, such that I was free to move on, sanguine that I didn't have to worry about one old grievance and could look around for currently outstanding things to be suitably outraged about.

Well, this project touched me personally, as I said before, with my own relatives coming to life for me, and movingly to death in the person of Joe, for the first time. By its end, despite the display of their foibles, the overarching impression was that these were good people, but there remained the nagging question about their involvement, with the rest of the townspeople, in the racism toward the Black soldiers. It was out of the question to expand this project to include that whole other story, besides that Mr Weaver and apparently many others since had already done so. But I then re-read his book, now with heightened apprehension of it, and found a new treatment, Harry Lembeck's *Taking on Theodore Roosevelt: How One Senator Defied the President on Brownsville and Shook American Politics* (2015), both of which left no doubt about the wrong done in all of its starkness and enormity.

This led me to another little Search, which, disappointingly, led to one of those “anniversary” looks back in the newspaper, where another scion of the old families and a local historian were cited as continuing to believe in the guilt of the soldiers and in the integrity of the flawed investigations. Since there is a mountain of scholarship that says otherwise, I’ll leave things with the immediately preceding tribute to Mr Weaver via his obituary, a note on the Affray from the Theodore Roosevelt Center, and ending where I began (“To Mami”), with my poem “Grandmother”:

J.A.G.  
October, 2015

## Grandmother (Mami)

For six weeks  
you were blind with cataracts  
while the doctors, younger than your sons,  
huddled over you in their barber’s chair.  
There was your age to be considered in a corner...  
One gravitated like a danseur  
goose-stepping towards the sleeping princess.  
You heard his touch. He thumbed an eyelid up,  
leaving a smudge...

Mother ruddered you by both arms from behind  
until the heels of medium height  
you would not, even then, forego  
stuck the sidewalk section with Grandfather’s  
name in block letters. Then you said,  
“All right, let *me*.”  
You assumed your mahogany rocker,  
your bird-breast quieting.

After an overnight trip home  
Mother walked in already talking,  
set some groceries on the round  
wooden table, turned, and saw  
your face  
lighted by the ceiling-high  
windows, your hands upraised to guide a kiss.

1973 Sat Oct 20.

~ & ~

